FAMILY WORSHIP;

A COURSE OF

Morning and Evening Prayers

FOR

EVERY DAY IN THE MONTH.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A DISCOURSE

ON

FAMILY RELIGION.

By JAMES BEAN,
CURATE OF CARSHALTON, IN SURRY.

"THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL SAITH, THEM THAT HONOUR ME I WILL HONOUR." I SAM. ii. 30.

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ON FAMILY RELIGION.

TRUE piety is a principle, which leads a man to honour God in every thing. It will have an influence upon him abroad, and at home; in ſociety, and in ſolitude; upon common, as well as extraordinary occaſions.

It is this principle which leads a Chriſtian to exerciſe a religious care over his family. And in this part of his conduct he ſhews, not only the devout ſtate of his affections, but likewiſe the ſoundneſs of his judgement. Every wiſe man ſees the neceſſity of having ſome plan of domeſtic government, in order to preſerve his houſe from being a ſcene of confuſion and miſery. And by what expedient can a chriſtian better accompliſh this purpoſe, than by endeavouring, that every

member of his family may feel the force of thoſe principles, by which he himſelf is made holy and happy.

It is eaſy to imagine how men of true piety will fill up this outline. In ſome particulars they may vary from each other; but there is one ancient and godly cuſtom, which unqueſtionably will have a chief place with them all in the order of their houſeholds: I mean, the regular performance of religious worſhip.

The arguments in ſupport of family religion lie in a ſmall compaſs. They are at the ſame time ſo obvious to a ſerious chriſtian, that it may almoſt ſeem unneceſſary to inſiſt upon them. It is ſcarcely poſſible that a man, converſant with the Holy Scriptures, and truly concerned for the temporal and eternal intereſts of thoſe who are under his care, can doubt of its being his duty to worſhip God in his family. With ſuch a man, the commendation given to *Abraham will have the force of an expreſs injunction.

* Gen. xviii. 19

Moreover,

Moreover, how reaſonable a thing is it, that God ſhould be honoured in that community, which derives all its comforts from him. In a family, there are mercies received from God, of which all the members are equal partakers. How fit and becoming a thing is it then, that all the members ſhould join in acts of devout homage to their common protector and benefactor.

The aſſembling every day to worſhip the ſupreme Being has a tendency to produce the happieſt effects in forming the conduct of our domeſtics. To recall the attention of a family frequently to God, tends to impreſs the members of it with an idea of his authority, and their dependence upon his providence. It holds forth religion to them as a duty not of occaſional, but daily obligation. The conſtant reading of the Holy Scriptures, the frequent imploring of the pardon of ſin, and petitioning for grace to act aright towards God and man, imperceptibly convey into their minds, a knowledge of the duties which they owe to God, to themſelves, and to each other.

Accordingly, we find that where religious order prevails in families, there a knowledge of right and wrong obtains; and although evil paſſions occaſionally diſcover themſelves, we do not ſee their *unreſtrained* violence: the good effects of daily inſtruction, and daily worſhip, are manifeſt in the tempers and conduct of the domeſtics, amidſt all their imperfections.

On the other hand, in thoſe houſes in which inſtruction is never heard, nor any act of devotion ſeen, we obſerve a deplorable ignorance of moral obligation. We therefore cannot wonder that there ſhould be ſo general a complaint of the behaviour of ſervants: for what means are there employed in many families to teach them their duty? How unlikely is it, that there ſhould be a ſteady obedience rendered to man, where the fear of God is not inculcated, either by precept, or example!

If therefore we conſult merely our own comfort, the beſt courſe we can purſue, is to tread in the ſteps of thoſe godly men, whoſe houſes were conſecrated, by the daily performance of family worſhip. The comfort of families

families is ſo effectually deſtroyed by careleſs, idle, unfaithful, and diſſolute ſervants, that a remedy for this ſerious and increaſing evil would be generally accounted a very great benefit to the public. But there is no reaſon to believe that a radical cure will be obtained, till the almoſt exploded piety of former times is revived, by making religious inſtruction and worſhip a ſtated obſervance in our houſes.

But there is another conſideration which ought to have great weight with us. The regard we ſhould pay to the welfare of *ſociety at large*, obliges us to employ all thoſe means which tend to the cultivation of religious principle. Families are the nurſeries of the ſtate. Parents, magiſtrates, ſenators, miniſters of religion, were once children in a family, and have probably brought with them into their important ſtations, a ſtrong tincture of the habits which prevailed where they ſpent their tender years. We retain the impreſſions which we receive in early life; and if they be not favourable to virtue, their corrupt influence may be traced in the actions of a riper period. Licentious children become ungovernable men. From not being habituated to

reverence God and eternal things, when children, men are frequently found to grow up with an heatheniſh inſenſibility in matters of religion; an inſenſibility which they diſcover, amidſt all the improvements they derive from a polite and liberal education. When to ſuch perſons a moral truſt is committed, it is eaſy to conjecture how it will be diſcharged.

A man who has a truly chriſtian mind, feels a benevolent concern for the intereſt of ſociety; and he will have a regard to this in the management of thoſe who are committed to his care. He will make it his buſineſs to ſend them forth into the world, *well-principled*; that when they are added to the maſs of the people, they may communicate to it a correcting influence, calculated to diminiſh, and not to augment, the too great quantity of evil which pervades it. Now if a man can deviſe a better method of doing this, than by the regular diſcharge of religious inſtruction and worſhip in his family, let him, for the benefit of ſociety, acquaint the world with it, for it will be a valuable diſcovery.

A man

A man may excuſe himſelf from the duty here recommended, by ſaying, " I am not in- " attentive to the religious and moral im- " provement of my family; I always go to " church on a Sunday, and I oblige my do- " meſtics to attend with me; and this I think " ſufficient for their knowing and practiſing " their duty, if they are ſo inclined." But is no advantage to be expected from attempting *every day* ſomething, that has a tendency to promote the beſt intereſts of our fellow-creatures? Nay, is not this indiſpenſably neceſſary?

It is no inconſiderable interval that occurs between one Sunday and another; an interval long enough for many and various temptations to operate upon our diſordered nature. And ſhall the moſt inexperienced and incautious part of our family be ſuffered to paſs all this time, without our doing any thing to counterwork the continual preſence and action of evil?

But without taking into our account the dangerous influence to which our domeſtics are expoſed,—we ſhould remember that the longer

longer the interval is, which occurs between the ſeaſons of inſtruction, the more likely we are to loſe its ſalutary impreſſion. It is to be wiſhed therefore, that there were ſome methods taken to prevent this loſs. Family worſhip anſwers the purpoſe; for it recalls our minds to God: It ſerves to renew the impreſſion of thoſe great truths which were ſet before us in public worſhip; but which, with all their importance, we are too prone to forget.

It may be uſeful to notice in this place an error, which I fear is too general: There are many who conceive, that the whole of the buſineſs for which ſeaſons of public prayer and teaching were ordained, is done within the walls of the church; whereas it is but *begun* there, it muſt be *finiſhed* at home. The work upon which the *parochial inſtructor* is employed, muſt paſs from his hands into thoſe of the ſeveral *family-inſtructors*.

Happy (if they know their advantages) are they, who have a well-informed and faithful paſtor, to diſpenſe God's holy word and ſacraments to them. *Nothing that is profitable*

will

*will he keep back from them**. He will not fail to ſet before them all thoſe bleſſed truths, which relate to the redemption of mankind. He will endeavour to excite them to a becoming regard to thoſe truths. Longing to ſee his people partakers of the comforts of chriſtianity, he will not merely urge them in a general way to the practice of its duties, but will point out to them what is incumbent on them, in their reſpective ſtates and relations.

Much further than this *he* cannot proceed; but the *work* muſt proceed, or the labour already beſtowed on it, may be loſt.

There is great reaſon to believe, that (though his diſcourſes may have produced very ſerious impreſſions while he was delivering them) the deſires, which were excited by them will die away, unleſs cheriſhed by ſome further application of truth to the mind. Seed has been ſown, which muſt not be left to itſelf; it muſt be watched; it muſt be watered; in order that it may bring forth fruit. To

* Acts xx. 20.

theſe things, the individuals who hear the word of God, muſt attend for themſelves. To theſe, the maſters of families are bound to attend, for the good of thoſe who are committed to their care. And he, who from chriſtian principles endeavours to *provide for thoſe of his own houſhold*, will follow the Sower, not only with his private prayers, but with ſuch family exerciſes, as tend to guard and cheriſh the precious ſeed, which has been ſown.

Where theſe duties are wiſely and diligently performed, the public inſtructor rejoices in ſeeing the fruit of his labour. But what fruit of them is he likely to diſcover among thoſe families, in which the domeſtics neither hear nor ſee any thing, that is calculated to remind them of the public worſhip, or that does any way correſpond with it? The ſervant will think (if he think at all on the ſubject) that religion conſiſts in nothing but going to church; for he ſees nothing more in his maſter's religion.

Children and ſervants are influenced by what is *always* addreſſing itſelf to them. They

They judge of things, not from what one man ſays one day in a week, but from what every perſon is ſaying every day. The cuſtoms, the habits, of a family, are the things which form their opinions, and character; and if among theſe, there be no act which is intended to do honour to religion, there is not only nothing done to *carry on* the deſign of public inſtruction, but many things which will *defeat* that deſign; even though not ſo intended.

It is from the neglect of following public with private inſtruction, among other cauſes, that a ſtanding miniſtry in the church does not produce all the good effects for which it was ordained. They who object to this inſtitution, ſhould conſider the limits of the public inſtructor's power; and in eſtimating the uſeful tendency of his office, they ought to allow for the failure of thoſe who ſhould take up the duty for which he is ſet apart, at that point, beyond which he cannot proceed.

The true miniſter of Chriſt is ever labouring to bring maſters of families to carry the work of inſtruction into their own province.

It

It is not a crouded auditory that ſatisfies him. He will be ready to weep over the multitudes he views from the pulpit, if he know, that though they ſeem to hang upon his lips, there is at home, no altar, no prieſt, no ſacrifice, nor one true ſign of genuine piety to be found. He eſtimates his uſefulneſs in his paſtoral character, not merely by the number of his hearers, but by the practical effect which his diſcourſes have on them. And among other enquiries, in order to aſcertain this effect, he endeavours to know whether there be any family religion among them. When he ſees religion in their houſes, he has reaſon to conclude, it has properly affected their hearts, and that, not only they, but *their children after them*, may partake of the benefit of his earneſt endeavours: But till religion get home to men's houſes, he conſiders that, however he may be commended as a preacher, he has reaſon to doubt whether, after all, his labours have produced any great effect upon his hearers.

Such being the importance of family religion, it is hoped, that no perſon, who has any juſt pretenſions to piety, will be deterred from

from the duty he owes to his domeſtics, by the *ridicule* he may incur, in reviving that antient and godly cuſtom, which is here enforced.

Is it becoming a man of ſenſe and ſeriouſneſs, to ſuffer himſelf to be ſtopped in the proſecution of what he knows to be reaſonable—of what he believes will increaſe the honour due unto God, the improvement and happineſs of his children and ſervants, and the benefit of ſociety, by the deriſion of ſome thoughtleſs obſerver, who never ſat down ſeriouſly to conſider what he chuſes to ridicule?

We ſhould ſtand prepared to meet with chriſtian firmneſs, that overbearing ſpirit of banter, which attempts to put every thing that is grave and ſerious out of countenance. Let us arm ourſelves againſt it, by conſidering, that it is ſcarcely poſſible to be well employed, and at the ſame time to eſcape its attack. How inglorious is it, to ſurrender in a good cauſe to ſuch an antagoniſt!

The

The moſt ſolemn and approved things may be made ſport of by ſome; but let us conſider how they are regarded by other obſervers. Is it not a beautiful ſight to ſee a pious man collect his domeſtics around him—open his bible—read diſtinctly and reverently a portion of that holy book—and then kneeling down with them, thankfully acknowledge the bleſſings which he and his family have received, and humbly implore the continuance of the divine mercy? This, however it may be miſrepreſented by vain and thoughtleſs men, is in the eye of God and his angels, a dignified ſpectacle.

The remainder of this addreſs ſhall conſiſt of a few hints to thoſe, who are reſolved on the practice of Family Worſhip.

In the firſt place, let the maſter of a houſe remember, that the more pleaſantly family worſhip is conducted, the better: provided, that in endeavouring to render it agreeable, we do not let it ſink to the level of an unmeaning obſervance. To prevent irkſomeneſs, long ſervices ſhould be avoided.

A well-

A well-choſen hour for family prayer is of great importance. An hour, at which the greateſt number can attend, which is leaſt liable to interruption, and at which the members are moſt capable of attention, is the hour to be choſen. To call to Morning Prayers before half the family is riſen, or not till after the hour of buſineſs commences, or to call to Evening Prayers after ſupper, are all of them errors which in a great meaſure defeat the end of aſſembling for religious worſhip.

The hour being fixed, let it never be varied, but through inevitable neceſſity. Punctuality is eſſential to order.

If the method of worſhip obſerved in a family be of the liturgical kind, let the maſter train his domeſtics to join in the parts which they have to ſuſtain. The beauty of alternate worſhip is loſt when the congregational parts are not well ſupported*.

* The author has ſome reaſons for recommending a liturgical form of worſhip in families. The reader will find theſe reaſons in a note, ſubjoined to the Family Liturgy, at the end of the book.

I have all along taken it for granted, that the Holy Scriptures are read where Family Worſhip is performed: but I cannot help obſerving that I have known this omitted where prayer was kept up. The conſtant omiſſion of this is certainly a great deficiency. The reading a moderate portion of ſcripture cannot add many minutes to the length of the ſervice. And it is to be recommended on many accounts; it is doing honour to the Holy Scriptures in the ſight of our houſhold; it prevents thoſe who neglect reading them in private from being entirely ignorant of them; and it ſerves to give thoſe who read them without ſufficient deliberation or judgment, an impreſſion of the weight and force of what is contained in them.

In the diſcharge of ſo ſacred a duty as that of religious worſhip, every thing is of importance. The *manner* therefore, in which it is performed by him who conducts it, deſerves ſome conſideration. Let it be free from ſuch habits as convey an idea of want of reverence, ſuch as provoke riſibility, diſſipate attention, or leave a repulſive impreſſion on the minds of thoſe who join in the worſhip. Delivery

livery ought to be particularly attended to: If it be ſlovenly, vociferous, precipitate, or whining, it ill befits the act, either of adminiſtering religious inſtruction, or preſenting the ſacrifice of prayer. Let him that leads family worſhip be concerned to render it both ſolemn and engaging. For this purpoſe one could wiſh, that, on ſuch an occaſion, his countenance, his tone of voice, his whole deportment, were expreſſive of unfeigned piety, good ſenſe, benignity, and happineſs.

To the due performance of all the duties which this paper aims to enforce, there is one thing that I conceive to be very eſſential. It is this: that the maſter of a family conſider himſelf as the miniſter of God to his houſhold. I would exhort him to cheriſh this idea of himſelf; and to pray earneſtly to God, that he may, with all humility, act up to this character. If he be deſirous of ſo doing, he will be ready to take advantage of every circumſtance that occurs in his family, by which he may ſeriouſly affect the minds of thoſe who live with him. Such an opportunity is afforded by a caſualty, a remarkable eſcape from ſome impending evil, ſickneſs, recovery,

or death; theſe are inſtructive events, and he ſhould be ready to accompany them with ſomething in his Family Worſhip, ſuited to improve to the beſt purpoſes, the impreſſions which ſuch things make on the minds of his houſhold. To aſſiſt him herein he will, in the following pages, find prayers adapted to ſuch intereſting occaſions.

But I muſt beg my reader to conſider, whether he may not go a ſtep further in acting as a miniſter of God in his family. Why ſhould he not be deſirous of being uſeful to his friend, as well as to his child, or his ſervant? Philanthropy as well as piety dictates this to him. A viſitor is, for the time he ſpends under our roof, a part of our family; and he ought to ſhare in that peculiar concern, which (without any prejudice to univerſal benevolence) we ſhould have for thoſe, with whom we are more intimately connected. It is worthy of a chriſtian, to receive his friend with a ſecret wiſh, that their intercourſe may not conſiſt merely in the uſual civilities, as if neither of them had any thing to do with what relates to God, or a future ſtate; but that his gueſt, as well as himſelf,

may

may receive benefit from the viſit, in the article of religion: that infinitely important point, with reſpect to which we ſhould always endeavour to be of ſervice to each other.

Among our viſitors there may be one, who has been ſo unhappily educated, as never to have been preſent at the performance of family worſhip; and to him, ſuch an obſervance may appear merely a kind of ſectarian ſingularity. This is a caſe which peculiarly calls for that benevolent concern I have been recommending. On the arrival of ſuch a perſon, I have known the family worſhip to be ſuſpended: But far be ſuch a mean accommodation, from the conduct of a true chriſtian! No; let the ſtranger ſee how we live—what regard we pay to an inviſible eye—and where we ground our beſt hopes. Let us keep his good in view; and hope, that by joining in the worſhip of the family, he will perceive that it is a thing not merely to be born with, but to be imitated. If indeed there be any prayers in this collection which ſeem more intelligible than the reſt to ſuch a perſon, they may be uſed at the commencement of the viſit. Farther than this, it may not be adviſable to

carry the ſpirit of accommodation. We ſhould take heed how we go into ſuch compliances as a frivolous politeneſs may ſuggeſt; for they are ſeldom of that kind as to be compatible with chriſtian ſimplicity. Nor does *true benevolence* allow them, however amiable they may appear to ſuperficial judges: For they tend to deprive ſociety of one of the greateſt means of its improvement; the power of good example. The religious man who is betrayed into them loſes thoſe definite marks of character, by which a chriſtian ought to be *known and read of all men*; and by which, without aſſuming any thing, he holds forth an inſtructive and important leſſon to his neighbour.

The neceſſity of maintaining, on all occaſions, the force of good example, is a conſideration of ſuch conſequence, that I muſt beg leave to addreſs ſome further obſervation on this head to thoſe who have the care of a family. The regular performance of religious worſhip in their houſes does not include the whole of this obligation. Nay, if it be not accompanied with the diſcharge of other duties incumbent on him who preſents it, the obſervance

obſervance itſelf, worthy as it is of being held in reverential eſtimation by all who join with him in it, will be in danger of incurring their averſion and contempt. Let me therefore remind the perſon who leads it, of the neceſſity of ſupporting its credit, by a holy conſiſtency of conduct in the general tenor of his life.

Where family worſhip is regularly obſerved, and its credit is ſupported by a holy life, a ſteady conduct, prudent management of temporal affairs, upright dealings, and amiable tempers, on the part of him who leads it, there can be no doubt of its proving beneficial to himſelf, to his domeſtics, and to ſociety. Some perſons endeavour to prove the inutility of family worſhip, by alledging the bad courſes taken by the children of ſome families, in which this obſervance has not been neglected. The facts, were they juſt ſuch as the objectors ſtate them to be, would perhaps only prove, (what no one diſputes) that though we can give our children good inſtructions, and ſet before them good examples, we cannot give them good diſpoſitions.

It is an affecting truth, that even where great pains have been taken to train children in the *fear of God*, we ſometimes find the World triumphing over the Inſtructor; by the force of its allurements, it has been known to bear away the well-tutored child, in defiance of the counſels, the example, and the prayers of a wiſe and good parent. It muſt be allowed likewiſe, that the bad courſes which ſome religiouſly educated children have taken, are to be accounted for, in a great meaſure, from the want of correſpondency between the profeſſion and the life—the prayers and the practice of the parent.

Among thoſe who profeſs themſelves Chriſtians, we meet with perſons whoſe religion is deſtitute of conſiſtency. They have prayers in their families, but theſe acts of devotion are not accompanied with the maintenance of order, or the firm and temperate exerciſe of parental authority. There is a remarkable deficiency likewiſe in the article of inſtruction; ſome favourite points of chriſtian truth are perhaps vehemently urged; while others, of equal conſequence, are entirely neglected. Children are taught to know the features of a hereſy;

hereſy; but ſound principles of conduct are never inculcated. In a looſe and general way, perhaps, the parent may ſpeak of the conſequences of vice, but he does not keep a watchful eye over the tempers, the employments, or the connections of his children; nor ſet before them, in his own conduct, the example of a ſober, ſteady, and upright character. Who can be ſurpriſed, if the ſon of ſuch a man turn out a libertine! If nothing has paſſed before that young man, as an exhibition of religion, but his father's example, what has he ſeen to make him reverence religion? He has ſeen ſomething, which, falling in with his own depravity, may lead him to deſpiſe it, and if he be a ſufferer through his father's miſconduct, I ſhall not wonder if he hate religion.

But let not ſuch an inſtance be brought to prove the inutility of domeſtic worſhip; the proper improvement of the fact is, to learn how little good is to be expected, and how much miſchief may enſue, from a ſpurious kind of religion.

Let

Let the profligate courſes which the children of inconſiſtent religioniſts have taken, urge us to take heed that we fall not into the error of their parents. Let us neither in our profeſſion, nor practice, preſent *a part* of religion to our family, but the whole of it. Let there be a mixture of devotion, inſtruction, government, and example, in the ſuperintendance of a family. Let theſe go hand in hand, and while they ſupport each other, they will give ſtability and comfort to the houſe, in which they are exerciſed. It will be the abode of peace. In the ſuperiors will be ſeen, authority tempered with kindneſs; among the inferiors, ſobriety, fidelity, induſtry and frugality; among them all, goodwill to each other will be viſible; notwithſtanding that, through the frailty of human nature, there may be occaſional interruptions of that harmony which the religious government of a family tends to produce.

It only remains, that ſome account be given of the following performance. I do not know, that the offering a book of prayers to the public, needs any apology, notwithſtanding there are already ſo many excellent compo-

compoſitions of this kind. Allowing to thoſe who have gone before me in this kind of writing, all the praiſe to which they are entitled, I cannot but be of opinion, that there may be occaſion for new compoſitions. There are no books perhaps, in the choice of which, we are more regulated by a taſte of our own, than books of devotion. Here, eſpecially, a man is apt to prefer the compoſition of a writer, whoſe turn of mind is congenial with his own. I have been much encouraged to proceed, in what is now offered to the public, by this conſideration; I have thought, that from this circumſtance, my book, defective as it is in ſome reſpects, may be the means of introducing religious worſhip into families, in which that duty has been hitherto neglected.

But I will not attempt to reaſon my readers into an approbation of my deſign. I truſt that I may ſay, I have ſought the good of mankind. I have aimed, likewiſe, at the honour of God, in this undertaking: and to that adorable Being, whoſe glory it is deſigned to promote, I commit it.

The

The compoſitions are all of them original. To effect ſome kind of variety, moſt of them are made on particular ſubjects; in the choice of which, no ſyſtematic arrangement was deſigned. Nothing more was attempted, than merely to comprehend the principal duties, trials, and temptations of common life.

The reader will perceive, that there are but few prayers for all ſtates. Inſtead of bringing all the uſual ſubjects of prayer before a family, every time they aſſemble for worſhip, I have endeavoured to diſtribute them among the ſixty prayers which are compoſed for the month. This appears to me to be a method more edifying to our domeſtics, than the comprehending all ſtates in every prayer. For by this method we may enlarge more on any particular ſubject, and thus give it more importance in the eyes of thoſe who join in the worſhip. By returning leſs frequently, and being longer dwelt upon, the ſubject attracts more attention than if it were haſtily paſſed over every day.

That the domeſtics of a family may be duly affected with a ſenſe of the duties, which they

they owe to thoſe who are in authority, is one reaſon which has determined the author not to make mention of them in every prayer. He endeavours to infuſe a ſpirit of loyalty into a family; by appropriating one ſeaſon of family devotion entirely to this ſubject. By this method he conceives (even ſhould the prayer occur but once in a month) the members of a family would learn more of what they owe to their Prince, and be much more impreſſed with a conviction that it is a chriſtian duty to pray for him, than by his being mentioned only in a ſhort ſentence, in every day's prayer.

May it pleaſe the God of all grace to accompany this humble attempt to promote the practice of domeſtic piety with his bleſſing; diſpoſing the hearts of parents and maſters to delight in imparting religious inſtruction to their children and ſervants. May their inſtruction be illuſtrated and adorned by their holy example. May the morning and evening ſacrifice of prayer and praiſe be offered up in every family to the God of our ſalvation, and his bleſſing deſcend and reſt on all the members; purifying their hearts, ſupporting them

them under their trials, uniting them more and more to each other in the bonds of chriſtian charity, and affording them the refreſhing foretaſtes of that glorious ſtate, in which the bleſſed GOD will be worſhipped with the moſt profound adoration, and the ſublimeſt ſtrains of praiſe.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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OCT

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING *.

A Prayer for the Preſence of GOD *in public Worſhip.*

O MOST holy GOD, we are weak and ſinful creatures, and could not preſume to approach thee, hadſt not thou revealed thyſelf a *GOD of mercy*, in and through thy

* Additional paſſages, applicable to the Holy Communion, are annexed to the prayers for this day. But it has been ſuggeſted to the author, by a venerable clergyman, that the family devotions of a Sacrament Day ſhould have a greater reference to this ſolemn ordinance. I have endeavoured to profit by this remark, and have, in this ſecond Edition, added two prayers, compoſed on the ſubject of the Lord's Supper. See the two firſt of the occaſional prayers.

dear Son. Encouraged by thy gracious promiſes, and the mediation of our bleſſed Advocate, we humbly draw near to thee, *unworthy* as we are *of the leaſt of all thy mercies*.

Accept our thankſgivings, moſt gracious God, for all the means, and all the opportunities, thou haſt afforded us for the ſalvation of our ſouls.

We bleſs thee, O Lord, for ſetting apart a day of holy reſt. We ſtand in need of being frequently called away from the affairs of the preſent life; for we are too forgetful of the infinite concerns of the life to come.

We are bound to thank thee, not only for appointing, but alſo for *preſerving* to us the day of reſt: for it is through thy good providence that the ſabbath is ſtill obſerved, and thereby a ſeaſon of inſtruction is afforded to us.

With unfeigned thankfulneſs would we acknowledge thy goodneſs to us in particular, in renewing the opportunities of benefiting by this merciful inſtitution, by the continuance

of

of our health and ſtrength. Thou haſt been graciouſly pleaſed to preſerve us during the laſt night, and to bring us ſafely to the beginning of another ſabbath; Now, O Lord, we beſeech thee, to give us grace to improve this day to its religious purpoſes.

With ſhame we own, that we have ſuffered former opportunities of this kind to paſs unimproved; but, O let it not be ſo to-day: Inſtead of loſing another ſabbath, may we endeavour to redeem thoſe which we have already loſt: For we know not whether this may not be our laſt.

We are going to thy houſe, be mercifully pleaſed, O Lord, to accompany us with thy gracious preſence, and make us duly ſenſible of it, *that we may ſee thy power and thy glory, as thy ſervants have ſeen them in the ſanctuary.*

Let us draw near to thee not only with our lips, but with our hearts alſo. Too often, alas! have we contented ourſelves with the *form of godlineſs;* this day let us *worſhip thee in ſpirit and in truth.*

When we confeſs our ſins, may we feel a *broken and contrite heart*; when we ſing thy praiſe, may *all that is within us bleſs thy holy name:* let true devotion accompany the words of prayer; and may we, through thy merciful regard to our petitions, draw down bleſſings upon our king, our country, our churches, our families, ourſelves, and all for whom we pray.

Bleſs the inſtructions we may receive this day. Let *our hearts ſtand in awe of thy word.* May we hear it likewiſe with thankfulneſs: bleſſing thee for its precepts as well as its promiſes.

Glory be to thy name, O Lord, for the *glad tidings of ſalvation*, which thou haſt ſent unto us. We are not ſtanding at the foot of Mount Sinai, from whence the moſt awful ſounds were heard; but *through the tender mercy of our God we are come to Mount Sion*, where guilty ſinners hear the name of JESUS, and are encouraged to approach God, by that atoning *blood which ſpeaketh better things than the blood of Abel.*

O ſuffer us not to be inattentive to thy voice. May we liſten to it with all humility; may we treaſure up thy gracious words in our hearts; and may their holy and happy influence be ſeen in our daily converſation.

Aſſiſt all thy ſervants, O Lord, who miniſter in holy things this day; and eſpecially him who laboureth among us. May he be aſſiſted by thy Holy Spirit, both in offering up the prayers of the congregation, and in diſpenſing thy word; and let thy bleſſing be upon all his labours.

Thus be thou preſent with all the meſſengers of our bleſſed Saviour. May they all be ſucceſsful in endeavouring to gather and edify that flock which the *chief Shepherd purchaſed with his precious blood**.

* *The following addition for a Sacrament Day may be introduced here.*

We humbly pray thee, to accompany all thoſe, who ſhall, this day, approach the table of our bleſſed Lord, to commemorate his great love to us. Whilſt they are partaking of the elements which repreſent his precious body and blood, may their hearts be deeply affected with the conſideration of his croſs and paſſion. May they

Theſe mercies for ourſelves, and for others, we humbly aſk in the name of our only Lord and Saviour, Jeſus Chriſt, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

remember their ſins with true contrition of heart, and the love of that Redeemer who ſhed his blood for their remiſſion, with the moſt lively thankfulneſs. May they be enabled to feed, by faith, on him, *who gave his fleſh for the life of the world*, and may they return from his table with hearts full of love to God, and good will towards men.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for the Means of Grace.

O KING of glory, king of righteouſneſs and peace, help us with all humility and reverence to *bow the knee to* thee. May we willingly and joyfully honour thee, and not only with our tongues "acknowledge Thee to be Lord," but be ever doing homage to thine authority by a life devoted to thy ſervice.

We would cloſe this day of mercy, moſt bleſſed God, with praiſe and prayer. We thank thee for the opportunity given to us of attending to the *things which belong to our peace*. We thank thee, that we have heard *the joyful ſound* of thy goſpel; thoſe *glad tidings* which proclaim *comfort to them who mourn, liberty to the captive, and the opening of the priſon to them who are bound.*

Let thy word, O Lord, *run and be glorified. Let thy way be known upon earth, thy ſaving health among all nations.* And may the *God of hope fill thoſe* who hear the word of ſalvation, *with all joy and peace in believing.*

We rejoice in the recollection of the numerous aſſemblies of Chriſtian worſhippers that have been held this day, in different parts of the world. Ever do thou incline our hearts to pity thoſe who neglect thine ordinances; but let us rejoice alſo, that there are multitudes who *know thy name,* and fill thy courts with the voice of prayer and praiſe.

Bleſſed be thy name, for all the ſucceſs that has attended the labours of thy miniſters. We bleſs thee for every one whom thou haſt turned from his evil ways, for every one whom thou haſt comforted under affliction, and for every one whom thou haſt made to advance in faith and holineſs. We would join in thankſgivings with all thoſe, who this day have been ſitting *under the tree of life*

with

with great delight, and have found its *fruit ſweet to their taſte.*

And O, moſt gracious God, have mercy on all thoſe, who, although they have heard thy word, ſtill remain *in the bonds of iniquity.* Let thy grace ever accompany the voice of thy miniſtering ſervants, that not one who hears their meſſage may *put away from himſelf the word of God*, and *adjudge himſelf unworthy of everlaſting life.*

And grant, O Lord, that we may be in the number of thoſe, who *hear thy word, and keep it.* Bleſs us with a capacity to remember what we hear; and *open our underſtanding that we may underſtand the ſcriptures.*

O ever bleſſed God, inſtructor of the ignorant, purifier of the heart, by whoſe influence the miſts of error are diſperſed, and the chains of ſin are broken, give unto us not only the knowledge, but alſo *the love of the truth.* Give effect to every ſucceſſive opportunity of attending the houſe of God; that our *faith may be more and more ſtrengthened,*

ened, and that our *love* towards God, and to one another, may be *made to abound* *.

Forgive, O merciful Lord, all the imperfections of our worſhip; neither in thy houſe, in the family, or in the cloſet, have we ſerved thee as we ought. Forgive the worſhippers; but let the worſhip, even though it is mixed with ſin, find acceptance with thee, through the meritorious offering of Jeſus Chriſt, ~~our Great High Prieſt~~. our Saviour & Redeemer

* *This addition for the evening of a Sacrament Day may be introduced here.*

We thank thee, O Lord, for another opportunity of commemorating the love of Jeſus Chriſt in dying for our ſins. Help all thoſe who have attended the Table of our Lord, to keep the bleſſed Redeemer ſtill in view; and enable them to walk henceforth as becometh the diſciples of Jeſus. May they go and ſhew forth that love to God and man, of which he hath ſet us ſo great an example in his death. Like thoſe who have partaken of the inſtituted ſigns of his body and blood with truly penitent hearts, may they watch and pray againſt all ſin; remembering what it *coſt to redeem their ſouls*. And may they long for, and be daily growing more meet for that nearer communion with Jeſus, which thy ſaints ſhall enjoy in heaven.

And

And now, may we be enabled to retire to reſt, meditating on the bleſſed truths in which we have been inſtructed. O may they accompany us in *our going out, and coming in*, at *our lying down*, and *our riſing up*.

Into thy hands, O God of ſalvation, we commend ourſelves; begging, that if we are raiſed to ſee the light of another day, we may enter on it deeply impreſſed with what we have heard to-day, and ſeriouſly reſolved, to take thy word *as a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths*.

Now *to the king eternal, immortal, inviſible, the only wiſe GOD, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

MON-

MONDAY MORNING.

For Grace to live according to GOD's Word.

BLESSED be the GOD and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who hath bleſſed us, in Chriſt, with all ſpiritual bleſſings. Give us a thankful heart, O Lord, for thy mercy in looking upon ſinful man, and for ſpeaking to us by that *meek and lowly* Saviour, who never *breaketh the bruiſed reed, nor quencheth the ſmoking flax.*

Although the ſabbath is paſt, we would not forget what we owe to Thee for the day of reſt. We have heard the *ſtill ſmall voice* of grace, ſpeaking pardon and *peace through the blood of Jeſus.* O may thy words be engraven on our hearts!

And ſince thou not only proclaimeſt pardon to the guilty, but likewiſe calleſt us into thy ſervice by this gentle voice, may we obey thy call. Deaf to all the allurements of ſin and vanity, may we draw near to thee, and make an entire ſurrender of ourſelves to thee.

O mer-

O merciful GOD, pour into our hearts that obedient ſpirit which will lead us to regard thy commands, as well as thy promiſes, and to ſay with the moſt ſincere deſire of knowing every thing which thou requireſt of us, *Speak Lord, for thy ſervant heareth.*

Suffer us not to reſt ſatisfied with a partial regard to the truth; but may *our hearts be found in thy ſtatutes:* and may all our conduct this day prove, that we deſire to be *ſincere and without offence* in thy ſight.

If any trial befal us, may we meet it as thoſe whom *thy word hath quickened* to a life of faith and holineſs. *Strengthen us, O Lord,* by thy Holy Spirit, that we may keep ourſelves *unſpotted from the world,* that we may *not walk after the fleſh,* and that *Satan may get no advantage over us.*

We humbly pray to thee, O God of grace, in behalf of all thoſe who heard the word of ſalvation yeſterday. Suffer them not, moſt merciful Father, to *turn away from him who ſpeaketh from heaven.* Other voices will be heard this day; but O, that mankind may perceive

perceive the danger of obeying any voice which contradicts thine. Preſerve them from *giving heed to ſeducing ſpirits*, and enable them to liſten attentively to thy faithful word; for there is love even in its ſevereſt rebukes.

We bleſs thee, O Lord, for the labours of thy miniſtering ſervants; and we pray thee to give ſucceſs to them. Let *none of their words fall to the ground*. May multitudes, this day, be employed in reflecting on thoſe things which were heard in thy houſe, and may thy Holy Spirit cauſe the ſeed of truth to ſink deep into the heart, that it may produce abundant fruit in the life.

And now we pray thee, O Lord, to prepare thy miniſters for new ſervices; and to direct them in the further proſecution of that great work to which thou haſt called them.

Give thy bleſſing to them in their reading, in their private meditations, and in their paſtoral viſits. Ever bearing upon their hearts the welfare of their flocks, may they be always

always laying up ſomething in ſtore, for future opportunities of inſtruction.

And whilſt thy miniſters are endeavouring to lead us on towards heaven, O may we, and all for whom they labour, willingly follow, and be daily proceeding *from ſtrength to ſtrength.*

And may the bleſſed company of thoſe, who are walking in the path of thy commandments, be increaſed every ſabbath-day. O Lord, give thy word ſucceſs, that new converts of all ranks, and all ages, may be *daily added to the church*; let *kings of the earth, and all people, princes, and all judges of the earth, young men and maidens, old men and children*, join *to praiſe the name of the Lord.*

Hear, O merciful Lord, our humble requeſts, and do thou, "who haſt brought us ſafely to the beginning of this day," be pleaſed to keep us *in thy fear all the day long*, and preſerve us from all things that may be hurtful either to body or ſoul, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

MON-

MONDAY EVENING.

That we may live with Eternity in View.

O BLESSED Lord, who by thy good providence haſt ſafely preſerved us to the cloſe of another day, teach us to look forward to *the end of all things*. We are admoniſhed, by the ſilence of the preſent hour, to ſtand prepared for that night, when the noiſe of this buſy world ſhall be heard no more.

Gracious God, let not that awful night overtake us before the great buſineſs of life is done: thou haſt in great mercy to our ſouls given us a *day of ſalvation*, O *let us not ſleep as do others, but watch and be ſober.*

And *whatſoever our hand findeth to do*, eſpecially in the affairs of life eternal, may we have grace to *do it with all our might; ſince there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wiſdom, in the grave whither we are going.*

O Lord,

O Lord, how much reaſon have we to be humbled before thee, for our negligence in the great work of our ſalvation. On this day, among others, how ſeldom have we ſo much as thought of it, and when it has occurred to our minds, how faintly have we thought of it. And yet, how great an intereſt do we take in the affairs of the preſent life, and how vigorouſly do we purſue them. Forgive, O Lord, this *ſhameful* inconſiſtency. Well may we hide our heads, when we reflect how *careful and troubled we are about many things*, and yet how little engaged about the *one thing needful*.

O forgive, and cure us of this folly. Let us *not be diſquieted in vain*. Let us not be always labouring *for that which ſatisfieth not*. Teach us ſeriouſly to weigh that queſtion of our Lord, *What ſhall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and loſe his own ſoul?*

What ſhould we gain, even in the preſent life, by *labouring only for the meat which periſheth?* What would all the world be to us without Thee, O God? if we have nothing more than its uncertain riches, and its ſhort-

lived pleaſures, we ſhall be poor and wretched. Thou only, O God, canſt make us truly bleſſed; therefore to Thee do we direct our eyes, and for thy favour will we humbly wait at thy footſtool.

Let us not be numbered with the *men of this world, who have their portion in this life,* but with thoſe who *confeſſing themſelves ſtrangers and pilgrims on earth, are ſeeking a better country.* Thou *forgiveſt their iniquities.* Thou *purifieſt their hearts.* Thou *keepeſt them from the evil of the world.* If thou *viſiteſt their offences with the rod, yet thy loving-kindneſs thou takeſt not from them. All things are made to work together for their good*; and they are *filled with all joy and peace in believing. O Lord, remember us with the favour that thou beareſt unto thy people: O viſit us with thy ſalvation, that we may ſee the good of thy choſen, that we may rejoice in the gladneſs of thy nation, and glory with thine inheritance.*

And may the hope of having Thee for *our portion,* O Lord, be more to us than all bodily

dily comforts and refreſhments. We bleſs thee that we have *a place where to lay our heads*, after the fatigues of the day. But doubly pleaſant are theſe comforts to us, when they are ſweetened by a ſenſe of thy mercy. We have reaſon to be thankful for the hardeſt bed, on which we can lie down at peace with Thee.

Lead us all ſeriouſly to enquire, whether we are in this bleſſed ſtate. Suffer none of us to cloſe our eyes in a falſe peace. May thy Holy Spirit work in our hearts true *repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; that *whether we live we may live unto the Lord, or whether we die we may die unto the Lord: ſo that living or dying we may be the Lord's*, through Jeſus Chriſt, our only Mediator, who taught us thus to pray, Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

For the Bleſſing of God upon all our lawful Undertakings.

O LORD our God, who *makeſt the outgoings of the morning and evening to praiſe thee*, we draw near to thee with our *morning ſacrifice* of praiſe and prayer. Vouchſafe to accept this offering at our hands through the mediation of our only Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, in whoſe name we, who deſerve to be *caſt away from thy preſence*, are encouraged to approach thee with humble confidence.

We not only enter upon another day, but we begin it in health, and are able, through thy goodneſs, to follow our reſpective vocations: For, O Lord, it is owing to thy mercy, that *man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour until the evening*. O heavenly Father, let us go forth to our employments with thy bleſſing upon us.

In

In *all our ways we would acknowledge thee*, and we beſeech thee to *direct our paths*.

We would leave the *ſucceſs* of our undertakings to thee, O Lord; for we know not whether ſucceſs would be good for us: therefore, chuſe thou for us, for thou alone knoweſt what is beſt for us.

If it pleaſe thee, *proſper thou the work of our hands*. And O ſtand by us in the hour of proſperity, *leſt our hearts be lifted up, and we forget the Lord our God*. If it ſeem not good unto thee to give ſucceſs to our labours, enable us to ſay from the heart, *thy will be done*. O Lord, let not the diſappointment be the occaſion of ſin, and all will be well.

O let our hearts and hopes be fixed on *the good things, which thou haſt prepared for them who love thee*; that our comfort and peace may not depend on any of the events of this changing world.

Thou haſt not given thy ſervants any aſſurance of worldly proſperity, but *thou haſt made with them an everlaſting covenant, ordered*

in all things that concern their ſpiritual welfare. In that covenant may we *principally* rejoice, when in proſperity; in that may we reſt, in the hour of adverſity: rejoicing in the *unſearchable riches of Chriſt*, and perfectly contented with thoſe treaſures, which the world can neither give nor take away.

We bleſs our divine Teacher for warning us to *take heed, leſt at any time our hearts be overcharged with the cares of this life.* Lord, we would not forget this admonition; we pray thee to give us grace to regard it in all the tranſactions of this day.

Let us not be added to the number of thoſe, whom a *greedineſs of filthy lucre* hath led into *temptation, and a ſnare, and into many fooliſh and hurtful luſts, which drown men in deſtruction and perdition.* While therefore, O God, we are *diligent in buſineſs, incline thou our hearts unto thy teſtimonies, and not unto covetouſneſs.*

Enable us ſo to manage all temporal affairs, as not to be enſlaved by them. Make thoſe who are called to worldly occupations, moderate in their deſires; that they may

may not take ſo much buſineſs upon themſelves as would diſtract their minds, and diſqualify them for the duties and enjoyments of religion.

Should difficulties ariſe this day in our affairs, do thou be with us in them; making us willing to ſuffer any thing rather than obtain relief by diſhonourable means. And let us not, in an hour of difficulty, depend on human wiſdom alone; may we *call upon thee in the day of trouble*, and wait with humility and patience for that help, which thou haſt promiſed to them who *commit their way to thee*.

O Lord, *let thy preſence go with us*. There is no wiſdom like thy wiſdom; no power like thy power; and therefore, there is no dependance equal to that of *making the Lord our truſt*. Thy providence is our beſt ſecurity againſt the craftineſs and violence of wicked men. Under thy guidance the ſimple ſhall paſs unhurt amidſt thoſe who ſeek to *make him their prey*.

O Lord, be thou our protector this day. And that we may hold forth to others a good example of a ſoul in purſuit of the *true riches*, may we look to Him who *became poor for us, that we through his poverty might be made rich.* His *grace is ſufficient for us.* May we have *no confidence in the fleſh*, but go forward *leaning upon* him, who is *able to ſave to the uttermoſt.*

We humbly intreat thee, O Lord, to hear our petitions, which we ſum up in the words which our Saviour taught us. Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for God's Protection.

MOST gracious Lord, from thee *cometh every good and perfect gift.* To thee we are indebted for all that makes the preſent life comfortable, and for all that ſecures to us the happineſs of the life to come: with thee, therefore, would we begin and end every day. Make

Make us thankful for all the bleſſings which we have this day received at thy hands. How many *unknown* bleſſings have we probably received? Who but thyſelf knoweth, how near we may have been to thoſe evils, from which we have been preſerved? For *lo, thou goeſt by us, and we ſee thee not: thou paſſeſt on alſo, but we perceive thee not.*

But, O that we were duly thankful for our known mercies. Pardon our want of thankfulneſs, and accept our imperfect praiſes for the bleſſings we have received. *Thou dealeſt not with us after our ſins, nor rewardeſt us according to our iniquities.* We are therefore bound to praiſe thee, not only for thy goodneſs, but alſo for thy patience; all our enjoyments are proofs of thy *long-ſuffering* towards ſinners.

And now to whom can we look for preſervation this night, but to Him, who hath kept us during the day. *O thou preſerver of men, except thou keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain,*

O Lord,

O Lord, nothing but thy providential care over us can ſecure ſuch frail creatures. Utterly unable are we to prevent many things that may render this night a night of great diſtreſs and trouble. Who but thyſelf, O God, can guard us from pain, fear, or grief; evils that may aſſault the inhabitant, while the habitation is in perfect ſecurity? But all things are in thy hand. And *when thou giveſt quietneſs, who then can make trouble?*

To thy care, therefore, O gracious God, we humbly commend ourſelves. Mercifully preſerve us from the ſons of violence, from devouring flames, from the *peſtilence that walketh in darkneſs*, from all diſtreſſing events, and all wicked beings, bodily or ſpiritual.

And O keep us from the greateſt of all evils. Give us that holy fear of falling into ſin, for which we have need every moment to pray. O Lord, *there is no darkneſs with thee.* Let us remember, therefore, that although the ſecrecy of night be often choſen for works of iniquity, the tranſgreſſor never eſcapeth thine eye.

Let the thought of thy omniſcience, and thy hatred of all ſin, never forſake us. Impreſs our ſouls with an habitual reverence of thine all-ſeeing eye, and fill them with that love to thy name, which will cauſe us to *abhor the thing which is evil.*

Bleſs unto us, O Lord, all the events of this night. Should it be a night of trial to any of us, let it be ſanctified trial. If we paſs the night without trial, let our waking thoughts be thoughts of thankfulneſs, and our firſt enquiry be, *what ſhall we render to the Lord?*

What we have aſked for ourſelves, O Lord, we aſk for others. We intreat thee to keep this neighbourhood in peace. Sanctify to thoſe who dwell around us, as well as to ourſelves, whatever this night may bring forth. We commend all our dear relations to thee. Guard them from evil, and eſpecially from him who is called *the evil one.*

O may we, and may all who are dear to us, retire to reſt duly ſenſible of all our bleſſings, and

and especially of that greatest of all blessings, the gift of a SAVIOUR.

Blessed, for ever blessed be the Lord, for that Redeemer, by whom guilty sinners are delivered from the darkness of error, sin, and misery, and are brought to enjoy the light of eternal life.

Blessing, and honour, glory, and power, be unto him who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For God's Guidance.

BLESSED is the man, O Lord, *whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee.* Vouchsafe unto us this mercy, we humbly beseech thee, *that we may be satisfied with the*

the goodneſs of thy houſe, even of thy holy temple.

What more, O gracious God, can we deſire than to *have a name and a place in thy houſe: O ſend the ſpirit of thy Son into our hearts, that we may call thee Father.* While others are ſeeking after the poſſeſſions, the honours, or the pleaſures of the world; we pray thee to *lift up the light of thy countenance upon us*; for without that, earthly abundance is poverty, and honour is an empty ſound. *In the fulneſs of our ſufficiency we ſhall be in ſtraits,* unleſs *thou art our portion.*

And doſt thou, O Lord, condeſcend to ſpeak as a Father to ſinful *duſt and aſhes?* Doſt thou offer to adopt thoſe into thy family, who are *conceived in ſin, and brought forth in iniquity?* O let our ſouls, and all that is within us, joyfully conſent to thy terms, and *come out, and be ſeparate* from every thing that would hold us from Thee. And never, never may there be in our hearts ſo much as a thought of *leaving our Father's houſe.*

Never

Never ſuffer us to *give that honour to another, which is due to thee* alone. How often, alas! have we been guilty of this folly. O Lord, *we have worſhipped and ſerved the creature more than the Creator:* but how often have we had reaſon to be *aſhamed of our hope.* In many inſtances our idols have deceived us; but thou, O faithful God, haſt never diſappointed the hopes of them who *make thy word their truſt.* All thy promiſes are, in due time, faithfully performed; and in Thee thy people find a *ſafe guide*, amidſt intricate paths—a *ſupporter*, when they are faint—a *protector*, when aſſaulted—a *comforter*, when diſtreſſed—a *refuge*, when purſued.

Whom then ſhall we deſire to have for our guide and guard, but Him, *who feedeth his flock like a ſhepherd?* Lead us then, bleſſed Lord, and give us grace to follow. Too long have we been *led aſtray* by our own *fooliſh and hurtful luſts*; but we ſee *whither* they were hurrying us. We yield ourſelves, therefore, to thy guidance, fearful of taking one ſtep, but as thou leadeſt us.

Con-

Conducted by Thee, we ſhall go through the day ſafely, if not pleaſantly. We may *ſuffer*, but if we be kept from *ſin*, it will be a bleſſed day. We may not be exempted from trial, but if thou ſanctify the trial, all will be well. And in the evening, ſhould we have to look back on a day of tempeſt, we ſhall have cauſe to be thankful, that He was with us *whom the winds and the ſea obey*; and through whoſe help the *deep did not ſwallow us up*.

Pity thoſe, O Lord, who are ſtill *as ſheep going aſtray:* Heavenly Shepherd, bring them home to thy fold; for there only we *find paſture:* there only we are ſafe.

Let no one *hear thy voice* in vain. May our dear relations, our friends, and our enemies, (if we have any) hear thy bleſſed voice, and obey it. *May he who was lifted up from the earth, draw all men unto him. To him may the Gentiles ſeek, and find his reſt glorious.* Yea, let him be the hope and *confidence of all the ends of the earth.*

Let

Let heaven and earth praiſe our God for his many mercies; but "eſpecially for his "ineſtimable love in the redemption of the "world, by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; for "the means of grace, and for the hope of "glory."

O "give us that due ſenſe of all thy mer-"cies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly "thankful, and that we may ſhew forth thy "praiſe, not only with our lips, but in our "lives; by giving up ourſelves to thy ſer-"vice, and by walking before thee in ho-"lineſs and righteouſneſs all our days, "through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord," who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Humility.

GREAT and holy God, how ſhall ſinful duſt and aſhes come before thee! We are *tranſgreſſors from the womb.* "We have "erred and ſtrayed from thy ways like loſt "ſheep, and there is no health in us." May we feel the burthen of our ſin when we draw near to thee, that we may *bow before the moſt high God* with unfeigned humility.

Thou art *the Lord God omnipotent*; we *are cruſhed before the moth.* Thou *art from everlaſting to everlaſting*; we *are of yeſterday, and know nothing.* Our meanneſs alone ought to fill us with humility in thy preſence. But, O gracious God, there is a ſtill more affecting reaſon for our *lying in the duſt* before thee: Thou haſt *nouriſhed and brought us up as children, and we have rebelled againſt thee. Lord, thou knoweſt our fooliſhneſs, and our ſins are not hidden from thee.*

O thou holy and heart-ſearching God, grant that every one of us may know himſelf, and not only ſee himſelf to be a ſinner, but feel within himſelf that grief and ſhame, which the remembrance of his ſin ought always to excite.

Suffer us not to liſten to any of thoſe ſelf-deceiving reaſonings, by which men *cover their ſins*. What plea can we offer for pride, for impurity, or for anger? What ſhall we ſay in excuſe for having loved this vain world ſo much, and Thee ſo little? We cannot deny that our *tranſgreſſions are many*; and, O God, preſerve us from attempting to extenuate the evil of them.

Let us fall into thy gracious hands, acknowledging our ſins with true contrition of heart, and beſeeching thee to ſhew mercy to us on thine own terms. Let not one of us ſhew an unhumbled heart, by cavilling at the way in which it pleaſeth thee to extend pardon to the guilty; but may we, moſt gladly and moſt thankfully, ſeek to thee for that forgiveneſs, which thou holdeſt out to us through the

the mediation and ſufferings of thy dear Son Jeſus Chriſt.

We bleſs thee, O God of infinite compaſſion, for having *opened a fountain for ſin and uncleanneſs*. To that would we apply ere we retire to reſt. We know that our lives are defiled by ſin; but O *who can underſtand* all *his errors?* Conſcious of many tranſgreſſions, and fearful that unobſerved offences may have been committed, we flee to the croſs of Jeſus, and there, with an eye directed to him who *bore our ſins* upon it, would we finiſh this day.

And we pray, O Lord, that not only when we are kneeling before thee, but at all times, we may be preſerved from *thinking of ourſelves more highly than we ought to think*. May a juſt view of ourſelves, as fallen creatures, be continually preſent to our minds; that in all our conduct towards Thee, O God, we may act like penitent ſinners; and in our tranſactions with men, we may behave with *all lowlineſs and meekneſs*; as becometh thoſe who ſtand in continual need of forgiveneſs.

And let no gifts, or talents, which thou haſt beſtowed on us, make us forget what we are in thy ſight. Lord, when we recollect the uſe we have made of them, we have more reaſon to be filled with ſhame, than to be proud on the account of them: How little have they been employed to thy glory! What *unprofitable ſervants* are we, with all the gifts thou haſt beſtowed on us!

" And now, O Lord, grant unto us the " ſpirit to think and do always ſuch things " as are right," for we know, by experience, that we may be lifted up with pride, even though we ſee that we have nothing to be proud of. Therefore, O Lord, do thou give unto us a humble heart. Preſerve us from all confidence in ourſelves, and let us never forget that *in the Lord* alone *have we either righteouſneſs or ſtrength.*

As helpleſs ſinners, we commit our bodies and ſouls to thy care this night. We are both weak and unworthy; unable to defend ourſelves, and undeſerving of thy protection: but thou haſt promiſed to hear thoſe who pray in the name of thy Son. For the ſake of him who

who ſhed his blood for us, pardon, O Lord, the ſins of the day paſt, and guard us from the evils of this night. Accept our thanks for the mercies we have received, and hear the requeſts we further make to thee, in the words which our Saviour taught us;

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

That we may make the beſt Uſe of Life.

MOST gracious and moſt glorious Lord, *Who is like unto thee!* almighty in power, and yet *abundant in mercy; of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and yet long-ſuffering towards ſinners!* All our endeavours to ſet forth thy glory muſt be weak and imperfect: but thou lookeſt to the heart, and wilt receive the praiſes of poor ſinful mortals, who deſire to give unto thee the *honour due unto thy name.*

We desire to offer up our unfeigned thanks to Thee this morning, for all the blessings of the past night. The *sleep* with which we have been refreshed, the *light* of returning day, and *health* to use and enjoy it, are all thy gifts: and shall we receive these gifts, and forget to bless the bountiful giver? Be it far from us, O Lord.

Yet, O most gracious God, we must confess, that we have often overlooked thy goodness; and have forgotten to devote that life to thy service which thou hast mercifully supported. Let our past unthankfulness be forgiven, and *sanctify us, in body, soul, and spirit*; that we may henceforth employ our powers, in endeavouring to do the will of that gracious Creator, who reneweth them from day to day.

We thank thee, *O Father of mercies*, for the light of thy holy word; by which we are taught *how to walk and please Thee our God*. We would take thy word this day as a *lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path*; and do thou enable us faithfully to follow all its directions;

directions; that *walking uprightly*, we may *walk ſurely*, and *go on our way rejoicing*.

We humbly pray for grace to tread in the ſteps of our bleſſed Saviour. He hath ſhewn us a pattern of faith, holineſs, and love: O may we receive *out of his fulneſs* ſuch a meaſure of aſſiſtance as may be needful for us, in order that we may follow him faithfully. We are apt to go aſtray; but do thou preſerve us, that we turn not away from our heavenly guide. We are apt to be *weary in well-doing*; O may our *ſtrength be renewed* by his grace. After his example, let it be our *meat to do the will of* our heavenly Father. And ſo carefully may we *tread in the ſteps* of Jeſus, as not only to eſcape the groſſer *pollutions of the world*, but even *the appearance of evil*.

Enable us, O Lord, to *walk by faith*; that the objects of ſenſe may not lead us aſide from the path of truth. May we be habitually *looking at the things which are not ſeen*, and let *our affections be ſet upon things above*; that we may neither fall into the *ſnares*, which may lie in our way, nor ſink under the *burdens* which we may be called to bear.

And, O Lord, let it not be enough for us to be kept from miſpending life, but may we be deſirous of improving it well. *While we have time*, let us endeavour to *do good unto all men*. If this day thou appoint any *labour of love* for us to perform, O may we willingly undertake it, glad of an opportunity of imitating him who *lived and died for us*.

Walking thus, O Lord, by the light of thy holy word, we need not perplex ourſelves about any thing which may happen to us this day. Thine eye is always on thoſe who fear thee; and thou haſt promiſed to make *all things work together for their good*: O God, *be it unto thy ſervants according to thy word*.

To thy gracious care we commit ourſelves, our dear relations, and all for whom we are bound to pray. We pray for them, and for ourſelves, that as we increaſe in years we may increaſe in *all the fruits of righteouſneſs*; and thus become more and more *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the ſaints in light*, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, in whoſe comprehenſive words we further call upon thee, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

THURS-

THURSDAY EVENING.

For Grace to live in a State of continual Preparation for Death.

O THAT men would praiſe the Lord for his goodneſs, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! We come before thee, O Lord, not only to thank thee for what we have received, but likewiſe to aſk for the continuation of thy mercies; for we are always *poor and needy*, and bleſſed be thy name, thou *art rich unto all who call upon thee.*

We thank thee for our preſervation by day. We thank thee for the ſeaſon of reſt, and the means of enjoying this bleſſing. Enable us, O Lord, to uſe all our bodily comforts with a conſiderate and devout mind. Let us not lie down on our beds *like the brutes that periſh*, but with ſerious reflections and prayer; remembering that the time is coming, when we muſt lie down in the grave,

And, ſeeing that our *life is but a vapour*, and we know not but that this night our *ſouls*

ſouls may be required of us, O give us all a ſerious concern to be in a ſtate of real preparation for our laſt hour. We are often more attentive to things of inferior moment, than we are to this great duty. We ſecure our habitations, but we forget our ſouls! O forgive that folly which leads us to *take thought* only for that which is leaſt worthy of our concern, and do thou make us *wiſe unto ſalvation*.

Grant to us repentance unto life; that we may not only be afraid of the conſequences of ſin, but aſhamed of its defilement, and weary of its burthen.

And inaſmuch as the ſincereſt and deepeſt repentance maketh no ſatisfaction for our offences, O what cauſe have we to bleſs thy holy name, for having provided an atoning ſacrifice for us; and for diſcovering to our guilty minds, that *Lamb of* GOD, *which taketh away the ſin of the world*. On that great ſacrifice, which our bleſſed Lord made of himſelf on the croſs, would we ground all our hopes of forgiveneſs.

Look,

Look, O Lord, upon the face of thine anointed; for his ſake *blot out all our miſdeeds.* We cannot *anſwer for one action in a thouſand*; but the *blood of Jeſus Chriſt cleanſeth from all ſin*; and thou haſt ſaid, *whoſoever believeth in him ſhall be ſaved: Lord, we believe, help our unbelief.* We will look to no one elſe for ſalvation. Help us with truly penitent hearts to commit our guilty ſouls into his hands, and there, in peace, may we leave what we entruſt to him.

May we cloſe this day in *charity*, as well as in *repentance* and *faith*. We pray thee to forgive all thoſe who may have done, or intended evil to us. Not knowing whether we ſhall ever return to any further dealings with mankind, enable us now to lie down in peace with all the world.

O that thus we all may conclude the day; we may *then lie down without fear:* Whatever be the events of the night to others, it will be *well with us.* Should even the ſhadow of death ſurround us, we ſhall have no cauſe for alarm: for Thou wilt be with us; our *light* in darkneſs, our *life* in death.

We

We now commend ourſelves to thee, O Lord, bleſſing thee for the privilege of being permitted to pray to thee. We humbly intreat thee to bleſs all whom we ought to remember in our prayers. We commend to thee our dear relations at a diſtance from us. We commend alſo this neighbourhood to thy care.

To thee, Father of Mercies, we particularly commend the children of affliction. O ſtand by the beds of thoſe who are *chaſtened with pain*—of thoſe who are *wetting their couches with their tears*, and of thoſe whoſe hearts are *meditating terror*. O look down in mercy upon departing ſouls; and take away the *bitterneſs of death*, by ſaying to the trembling heart, *I am thy ſalvation*.

Lord, accept and bleſs us, in and through thy dear Son, Jeſus Chriſt, who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For the Miniſters of GOD's *holy Word.*

HOLY and gracious Lord, though we are *unworthy of the leaſt of all thy mercies*, ſtill we find thee rich in goodneſs towards us. *Thy mercies are new every morning*. We are reſtored to the light of another day, who might now have been numbered among the dead.

Nor are we the only partakers of thy goodneſs; *the earth is full of thy mercy, O Lord:* Inſtead of viſiting it with *the rod of judgment*, thou cauſeſt *thy rain to deſcend, and thy ſun to ariſe, on the evil and the good, on the juſt, and the unjuſt.*

But if thy patience and mercy are ſo manifeſt in theſe temporal bleſſings, O how much clearer do they appear in the means of ſalvation, which thou haſt afforded us. *Like ſheep we went aſtray*, and never, never ſhould we

we have returned to Thee, hadſt thou left us to ourſelves.

But thou didſt *look upon our low eſtate*; thine eye *ſaw, and pitied us*; thou didſt ſend us a *Saviour:* Yea, *ſo didſt thou love the world, as to give thine only-begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in him ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life.* O let the *living, let the living praiſe thee.* Let none of thy mercies be forgotten; but may we be eſpecially thankful for the bleſſings of redemption.

We thank thee, O Lord, that the *tidings of ſalvation* have been ſent to us, and that we have cauſe to praiſe thee for the *means of grace*; O that theſe means may be continued unto us, and be daily better improved by us.

We pray thee likewiſe, O Lord, to give more ſucceſs to thy word, that the *Church which was purchaſed by the precious blood of Jeſus*, may *break forth on the right hand, and on the left.*

And as thou art pleaſed to make uſe of human inſtruments in carrying on thy merci-

ful

ful deſigns to man, we pray that thy bleſſing may reſt on them. To all the miniſters of thy word let a *portion of thy ſpirit* be granted, ſufficient for the difficulties they may meet with, and the duties to which they may be called.

O thou who *holdeſt the ſtars in thy right hand*, keep thy miniſtering ſervants from the *corruptions that are in the world*; that they may be *burning and ſhining lights*, to the end of their courſe.

We pray thee, O Lord, to look, in particular, on ſuch as are called to eminent ſtations in thy church. Direct them in the choice of "perſons to ſerve in the miniſtry." Give them all the diſcernment, and all the zeal, which is neceſſary to ſo important a truſt; that none may obtain an office in thy houſe, who are deſtitute of the gifts and graces which thy ſervice requires.

O preſerve thy church from the intruſion of ignorant and ungodly men. Give us, O Lord, *paſtors and teachers after thine own heart*,

heart, who ſhall feed thy people with knowledge and underſtanding.

Give the word, O Lord, that great may be the company of the preachers. Look with thy wonted compaſſion upon this ſinful world; and while ſo many inſtruments of corruption and ruin are permitted to do miſchief in it, ſend forth thoſe who long and labour for the ſalvation of men.

And be graciouſly pleaſed, merciful Lord, to bleſs every part of the earth with ſuch paſtors. And proſper thou the labours of thy ſervants; that our adorable Redeemer may *ſee of the travail of his ſoul, and be ſatisfied*; and that the hands of thy miniſters may be ſtrengthened in the bleſſed work to which they are appointed.

We pray thee, O Lord, to be with thoſe, who, from love to the ſouls of men, are now encountering all the hardſhips of foreign miſſions; comfort their hearts, and crown their endeavours with that ſucceſs, which, to a ſoul devoted to thee in this work, is one of the higheſt rewards.

And

And may we, by *receiving and walking in the truth*, be the *joy and crown* of faithful miniſters. May the bleſſed effects of thy word be evident in our tempers, in our purſuits, and in our conduct towards all men. Thus may we *ſhew forth the praiſes of Him who hath called us out of darkneſs into his marvellous light*.

To the guidance and protection of thy providence, O Lord, we now commend ourſelves, and all for whom we ought to pray, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

A general Prayer.

MERCIFUL GOD, our Creator, Preſerver, and Redeemer: Thou art the fountain from which all our comforts flow: Without thee we are nothing but poverty and miſery.

We have reaſon to take ſhame to ourſelves for "having often followed the devices and "deſires of our own hearts," when they have been in oppoſition to thy will. O Lord, we would not attempt to palliate this folly and wickedneſs, but would, with unfeigned humility and contrition, caſt ourſelves entirely upon thy mercy; knowing that we are inexcuſable.

Happy is it for us that thou art a *God of mercy*; for we are ſo "far gone from righte-"ouſneſs," as to have no hope but in the *riches of thy grace*.

Everlaſting thanks be to thee for that bleſſed Goſpel which reveals a Mediator to us. We thank Thee, O God, for the glad tidings of a Redeemer, who *came into the world to ſave ſinners*. How *worthy of all acceptation is this faithful ſaying!* Let us treaſure it up in our hearts, and glory in Him *who of God is made unto us wiſdom, righteouſneſs, ſanctification, and redemption*.

Father of mercies, *what ſhall we render* unto thee for making *a way of eſcape* for us, loſt

and

and helpleſs ſinners! O may we turn to it with *that broken and contrite heart*, which we ought ever to feel. Though *there is mercy with thee*, let us ſtill *fear thee*; and though thou *blotteſt out our ſins*, yet, let us remember them with ſhame and ſorrow.

O gracious God, let not one of this family be a ſtranger to himſelf, or to thee. May thy Holy Spirit *convince* every one *of* his OWN *ſin*, that there may not be, in all this houſe, one who is not ſenſible of his *need of that bleſſed Phyſician*, who came down from heaven to cure the diſeaſes of the ſoul, and to reſcue us from death eternal.

Suffer us not, O Divine Teacher, to remain either ignorant or negligent of any thing that relates to our everlaſting welfare; but eſpecially of *that great ſalvation*, which thou haſt publiſhed in thy word, and art ſtill proclaiming by the voice of thy miniſters. *O may we know the day of our viſitation*, that we may not periſh with the bleſſed tidings of ſalvation ſounding in our ears.

Good Lord, deliver us from all hypocriſy, as well as from a hardened conſcience. May we attend to thy voice with the utmoſt ſimplicity of mind, and joyfully ſurrender our whole ſelves to Him, who ſaith, *My Son, give me thy heart.*

Enable us to live as thy faithful ſervants. Make us *watchful over our own hearts; circumſpect* in all our conduct; and *upright* in all our intentions. Guard us in all temptations. Give us grace to improve our *time*, and every other *talent*, which thou haſt committed to us.

We bleſs thy holy name for all the mercies of the day paſt, and we humbly requeſt thy continued care and protection, to defend us from all the evils to which we may be expoſed this night.

To thee we commend likewiſe every one for whom we ought to pray; eſpecially, thy ſervant our King, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family. We pray thee, O Lord, to bleſs our country; and though

our

our national ſins are very great, yet *turn not away thy mercy from us.*

We pray thee to have mercy on all men. Sanctify the afflictions of the afflicted. Enlighten the minds of thoſe who are in ſpiritual darkneſs. And may they, *who are taken captive by Satan, be recovered out of his ſnares.*

We commend all the miniſters of thy word to thee, and eſpecially thy ſervant who diſpenſeth thy word among us. Bleſs, O Lord, the labours of all thoſe *who watch for ſouls*, and add to the number of thoſe who are faithful in this holy office.

We intreat thee to bleſs all the inhabitants of the pariſh in which we dwell. Bleſs them, O Lord, in their civil callings, and in their families; but above all, bleſs them in their ſouls; that they may live in *the fear of thy holy name*, and in love and peace one with another. Theſe mercies we aſk in the name of Jeſus Chriſt, our only Advocate with the Father, who taught us thus to addreſs Thee,

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

For Grace to live under a due Senſe of the Mercies of God.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who gaveſt us refreſhing ſleep whilſt we lay on our beds, and haſt enabled us to riſe from them in health, we draw near to thee with the ſacrifice of praiſe and prayer. Like every thing elſe that is ours, it is unworthy of thy regard; but *deal with thy ſervants according to thy mercy*; and for the ſake of that atoning ſacrifice which Jeſus our Great High Prieſt offered up, let the *lifting up of our hands* be acceptable in thy ſight.

How many are there whoſe cry during the whole night hath been, *would God it were morning!* but to whom the returning light brings no relief, and who now are ſaying, *would God it were evening!* Who are we, O Lord, that thou ſhouldeſt put a difference between us and them? It *is not for our righte-*

ouſneſs,

ouſneſs, that we have been made to reſt in peace, whilſt diſtreſs of various kinds has kept many awake.

And now, O merciful Lord, while we conſider how painfully the paſt night hath been ſpent by many, ſhall we not bleſs thee, the giver of life, of eaſe, of ſleep, and of every thing elſe which makes life comfortable? Yes, Lord, *our voice ſhalt thou hear in the morning*. We will begin the day with praiſe to Him, who hath given to us a night of mercy; *O praiſe the Lord, for his mercy endureth for ever*.

And may we not only *ſpeak*, but *live* to thy praiſe. How many are our obligations to live to thy glory; how are they continually increaſing, by the hourly addition of new benefits! *What ſhall we render unto the Lord for all his mercies?*

But, O heavenly Father, great as our temporal bleſſings are, they are far exceeded by what thou haſt done for our ſouls. Thou haſt *opened a fountain for our ſin and uncleanneſs*. Thou haſt raiſed up a Deliverer, who

is *mighty to ſave*. We are guilty ſinners, but thou haſt appointed for us a *city of refuge*. Through the *riches of thy grace*, we have a *Prieſt*, to make atonement for our ſins; a *Phyſician*, to heal our diſeaſes; a *Shepherd*, to protect and feed us; and a *Guide*, to direct our feet into the way of peace.

O that the *multitude of thy mercies* to us may have a ſuitable influence on our hearts, our tempers, and our lives. Let the recollection of thy grace, moſt bleſſed God, abide with us through the day, and have a holy effect upon our minds; that while our hands are employed about the affairs of the preſent life, our hearts may not be improperly affected by them.

Enable us this, and every day, to *tread in the footſteps of thy flock*; like Enoch, may we *walk with God*; like David, may we *ſet the Lord always before us*; like Moſes, may we *endure as ſeeing him who is inviſible*. Thus let the day of life be ſpent; that when its evening ſhall come, we may end our day like Simeon, and ſay, *Lord, now let thy ſervant depart in peace*.

For

For this we earneſtly beg thy grace; rejoicing that thou haſt not only given us clear precepts, and bright examples, but likewiſe haſt promiſed to give *thy holy ſpirit to them who aſk thee* for this bleſſing. Beſtow, O Lord, this great bleſſing upon us; that we may obey the precepts, and imitate the examples, which thou haſt ſet before us.

Leave us not to ourſelves; for it is not the mere knowledge of our duty that will enſure the practice of it: through the depravity of our hearts, we are capable of diſregarding every *precept* thou haſt enforced, every *example* thou haſt ſet before us, and every *mercy* that we have received.

O be preſent with us, therefore, every moment of the day. *Hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footſteps ſlip not.* And enable us to be *faithful unto death, that we may obtain the crown of life*, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, who hath inſtructed us to pray to thee in theſe words,

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY

SATURDAY EVENING.

A general Thankſgiving.

BLESSED Lord, who loadeſt us daily with thy benefits, we conclude this week with an humble attempt to ſet forth thy praiſe. We would take a thankful review of thy providence, and adore the name of that God, of whoſe goodneſs, patience, and mercy, we are ſtill living witneſſes.

But where, O Lord, ſhall we begin, in recounting thy mercies? By thee were we formed; *Thou waſt our hope when we hanged yet on our mother's breaſt; by thee have we been holden up ever ſince we were born.* Through how many dangers we have been ſafely preſerved is beſt known to Thee only, who knoweſt all things: we would thankfully acknowledge, however, that it is through our *having obtained help of the Lord*, that *we continue to this day*.

O Lord,

O Lord, when we conſider to what evils we are expoſed, and how little we have ſought thy care, what reaſon have we to be filled with wonder and thankfulneſs, that we are yet *among the living*. *It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not conſumed.*

O God of all grace, we need not go far back for proofs of thy patience; a review of this week only, will ſhew that thou art *long ſuffering towards us*. Have we ſpent a ſingle hour as we ought? With *ſhame and confuſion of face* we acknowledge, that even in our beſt moments we are *not pure in thy ſight*.

Yet from ſuch unworthy creatures thou wilt condeſcend to accept praiſe. Bleſſed be thy name, O Lord, for all the comforts we have ſeverally enjoyed. To thee we are indebted for our health, our ſtrength, our peace, and our ſafety. If *death* hath not come into this houſe, if *evil tidings* have not been brought hither, if *diſeaſe* hath been kept away, or removed from us, it is wholly owing to thy gracious care. O may each member of this family recollect his perſonal mercies,

temporal

temporal and ſpiritual. And may every one who hath partaken of the bleſſings of the family, join heartily with thy ſervant, who is now offering up the thankſgivings of this houſe.

We look forward, O Lord, with pleaſure to the return of thy day, which is at hand; O may we live to ſee it! May we riſe in health in the morning, to attend the ſervice of thy houſe; thither may we go with willing feet, and there, looking round on the *multitude of thy mercies*, may we lift up the voice of unfeigned thankfulneſs.

There may we bleſs thee with our whole heart for every temporal favour ſhewn to our family, our kindred, and our country. There alſo may we adore thee for the richer bleſſings of redemption; for the *love of God*; for the *grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; for the *communion of the Holy Ghoſt*; and for all the preſent and everlaſting benefits, which flow to us *through the kindneſs and love of God our Saviour*.

Bleſſed,

Bleſſed, for ever bleſſed be the Lord, that we have heard of that *name*, *at which every knee muſt bow*. O let the name of Jeſus be ever dear to us! Thanks be to Thee, O God of mercy, for ſending thy word to *Britain*, and for caſting our lot in this land of light, in which the truths of *the glorious goſpel* are publiſhed.

O that we, and all the inhabitants of theſe kingdoms, may know and improve the *day of our viſitation*. May we ſet a due value on thy mercies, and attend *with all diligence* to the *things which belong to our peace*.

We intreat thee, O Lord, to prepare us for the Sabbath-day. May thy miniſters be aſſiſted in their office. We particularly pray for thy ſervant who miniſtreth to us in holy things. May he, and all thy meſſengers, ſpeak the truth *with all boldneſs*, with *plainneſs* of ſpeech, and with *tenderneſs* of heart. And may great effects follow the faithful adminiſtration of thy word and ordinances, in all thoſe who attend them, O Lord.

Let

Let thy word have free courſe, and be glorified in the converſion of ſinners, and the edification of thy church, through Jeſus Chriſt, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SECOND

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Thankſgiving for the Light of the Goſpel.

O THOU *who heareſt prayer*, graciouſly receive the humble petitions of thine unworthy ſervants. We glorify thy holy name for having cauſed the nations, *who once ſat in darkneſs, to ſee the light* of the goſpel. *We* have great reaſon, O Lord, to praiſe thee for this grace, for our forefathers were *gentiles in the fleſh*, and not only *aliens from the common-wealth* of *Iſrael*, but *ſtrangers to the covenants of promiſe; without hope, and without God.* But *through the tender mercy of our God, the day-ſpring from on high hath viſited us, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

O that we may be duly ſenſible of thy mercy in manifeſting that way to us. If thou hadſt not revealed it, our unaſſiſted reaſon never would

would have diſcovered it. O Lord, *the world by wiſdom knew thee not.* Adored be thy name, thou haſt not left us to exclaim in wretched uncertainty, *Wherewith ſhall we appear before the* Lord? But in thy great mercy thou haſt *ſhewed us what is good for man*, and how thou canſt be *juſt, and yet the juſtifier of him who believeth in Jeſus.*

And now, O Lord, ſince the *way to the Father* is revealed, grant that we, and all who ſhall hear thy word this day, may ſee the excellency of that way, and walk in it. Deliver us from all that *falſe wiſdom*, which leads ſome to account the *preaching of the croſs, fooliſhneſs.* Let all corrupt *imaginations, and every high thing which exalteth itſelf againſt the knowledge of God, be caſt down*; and may *every thought be brought into captivity to the obedience of Chriſt.*

Bleſſed be thy name for ſuch paſtors and teachers as declare *the truth as it is in Jeſus.* Be with them, O merciful Lord, according to thy gracious promiſe. Enable them faithfully and judiciouſly to point out that way of ſalvation, in which we may come with holy

holy confidence to the throne of grace, and *obtain mercy*. And may they preach thy word in the *ſpirit of love*; making him, who never *broke the bruiſed reed*, their pattern as well as their ſubject.

And while thy ſervants are publiſhing the glorious truths of the goſpel, O heavenly Father, accompany the word with the influence of thy Holy Spirit, that our *underſtandings may be opened to underſtand the ſcriptures. May the eyes of our mind be enlightened, that we may know what is the hope of thy calling, and what are the riches of the glory of thine inheritance in the ſaints.*

And let not a cold and barren knowledge be the only effect of that inſtruction which we receive. May our hearts be warmed by it; let it awaken in us every devout affection; that we may rejoice in the *glad tidings of ſalvation*, although humbled at the ſight of ourſelves. May we ſee and believe in Jeſus. May the remembrance of his name refreſh our hearts. May his will be our law; his love our ſong; and the hope of ſeeing him in heaven, our principal joy on earth.

Lord grant that it may be thus with all who hear thy word this day. May all vain hopes, all falſe views, and all hardneſs of heart, fall before the truth.

We pray thee to enable us to *worſhip thee in ſpirit and in truth*. May our hearts and our lips unite in honouring thee. With the ſelf abaſement that becometh ſinners, may we utter our confeſſions, our prayers, and our thankſgivings. In the ſame ſpirit may we hear thy word, and perform every act of worſhip in which we engage this day. And graciouſly vouchſafe, O Lord, to look down upon our weak and imperfect ſervices, and grant the requeſts which we make both for ourſelves and for others.

And may thy bleſſing ſo attend our waiting on thee, that we may return from thy courts with an inſtructed and edified heart. May we bring religion home to our houſes, that it may be found there as well as in the houſe of God. So let it be with thy ſervants, O Lord, that we, on all occaſions ſhewing forth the holy influence of thy truth, may at all

times

times feel its heavenly conſolations, through Jeſus Chriſt our Mediator and Advocate, by whom we were taught thus to addreſs thee,

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

That we may not reſt ſatisfied with a Form of Godlineſs.

O THOU *ſearcher of the heart*, with whom the mere ſervice of the lips is of no avail, give unto us a ſincere and ſerious mind in prayer. Remembering that thou canſt not be deceived by falſe appearances, let us *worſhip thee in ſpirit and truth.*

Bleſſed be thy Name, for ſuch a ſenſe of Religion as preſerves us from neglecting thine ordinances; but ſeeing they may be attended by thoſe whoſe *hearts are not right in the ſight of God*, we make it our earneſt prayer to Thee,

that we may not reſt in the outward acts of religion.

We would be thankful for ſo much knowledge as to ſee that there may be *the form of godlineſs without the power of it:* but do thou preſerve us from neglecting either: may we attend all thine appointments with an exemplary regularity; and be ever looking to Thee in them, for that efficacious grace, by which the heart is purified.

May we not only read and hear thy word, but ſeriouſly conſider the things which it declares to us. *As new born babes*, may we *deſire the ſincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby*, and become *wiſe unto ſalvation.*

Let us not only call ourſelves Chriſtians, but be Chriſtians indeed: fleeing to Chriſt as our *refuge*, leaning on him as our *ſupport*, living upon him daily as the *bread of life*, and following him as our *leader.* May we *glory in his croſs*, and by it may the *world be crucified to us, and we to the world.*

Thus,

Thus, O Lord of life, quicken us, that our religion may not be a body without ſpirit. May we not only have *a name to live*, but be indeed *alive unto God, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.* For thy word aſſures us, that although we may *underſtand all myſteries, and all knowledge, and ſpeak with the tongues of men or even of angels, if we have not charity*, theſe gifts will *profit us nothing.*

We earneſtly beſeech Thee, therefore, to add the power of thy grace to the light of thy truth, that we may grow in faith and love; and being *renewed by thy Holy Spirit* from day to day, we may become more and more *meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the ſaints in light.*

We pray thee, moſt gracious Father, to look in mercy on the Chriſtian world, and pour down a ſpirit of illumination on its Churches; that ignorance, pride, and falſe ſecurity, may be removed far from them. May the ſimplicity and power of thy goſpel, as they were ſeen in its beſt days, return again. *Look down, O Lord, from heaven, behold, and viſit this vine.* Let *ſhowers* of

bleſſing deſcend on it, that there may be a *revival of thy work* in all the Churches, and that it may be known that thou *art yet among us.*

And may we of this houſe, partake largely of this favour. Stir up every one of us to the diligent uſe of all thoſe means, in which thou haſt appointed us to be found, in order to *grow in grace.*

Suffer us not, O Lord, to reſt ſatisfied with our preſent attainments in religion, but, as thoſe who are far from being perfect, may we *preſs* daily *towards the mark* that is before us.

O God of mercy, pardon the coldneſs of our hearts in thy ſervice this day. We have need moſt earneſtly and humbly to intreat thy forgiveneſs, even on account of our holieſt employments. And, if even for our prayers and praiſes we have need to aſk forgiveneſs, how much more for all our other actions! Enter not therefore into judgment with thy ſervants, O Lord, but look upon us and

accept

accept us in thy beloved Son, of whoſe mediation we are in continual need.

Mercifully protect us this night from all evil, and grant that we may ſee the light of another day in peace, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That the World may not render God's Word ineffectual.

O GOD of the ſpirits of all fleſh, let every day begin with thee. We have had the privilege of waiting on thee in thine houſe. And we deſire to be thankful, that we were not ſuffered to waſte that time in idleneſs or pleaſure, which thou in mercy gaveſt us for the *work of our ſalvation*.

But we muſt likewiſe implore thy forgiveneſs; for though we have reaſon to praiſe thee for keeping us from profaning the Sabbath, yet we may look back with ſhame on the manner in which we performed its duties. O how little was there of that deep humiliation, with which our confeſſions ought to be uttered;—of that fervency, with which our prayers and praiſes ought to be offered;—and of that ſolemn attention, with which thy word ſhould be heard!

Yet, O gracious God, defective as all our ſervices were, we hope and truſt, that through the merits and interceſſion of thy dear Son, we were accepted in thine ordinances; and we bleſs thy holy name for having given us the opportunity of attending them.

But although the day of reſt is over, and we muſt now be employed in the affairs of the preſent life, we are yet in thy ſight, and ought to endeavour to approve ourſelves to Thee, even in the common affairs of life.

We begin, therefore, this part of the week with ſupplication to Thee, O *God of all grace*;

grace; humbly beſeeching thee to make us ſo mindful of thy continual preſence, that all our behaviour may ſerve to ſhew Thou art ſtill *in our thoughts*.

Defend us, O Lord our God, while we are employed about the things of this life, from the hurtful influence which they may have on our minds. Mercifully regard thy frail creatures who have to encounter with the cares, the difficulties, the allurements of this preſent world: let them not overwhelm us, nor make us forgetful of thoſe bleſſed truths which we ſo lately heard.

O Lord, we feel our weakneſs; we remember how we have been borne away by the crowd of temporal affairs, that have preſſed on us as ſoon as the Sabbath was over. Before the evening of another day has come, the ſerious and ſalutary impreſſions that had been made upon us by thy word, have almoſt been effaced. Sometimes we have loſt almoſt the reliſh of thoſe good things which we have taſted; and have been ſcarcely able to recollect the peace, the hope, and the joy, which we felt in the cloſet, and in the congregation.

O let

O let it not be thus with us this day. In our moſt buſy hours let us not loſe a ſenſe of thy preſence, O God. Let the influence of thy holy word be forcible and abiding; having heard it, we are now called to ſhew forth the effect it ſhould have on our hearts, and lives. O may it be manifeſt, that we are endeavouring to practiſe, whilſt we are out of thy houſe, the heavenly leſſons which we received when we were within it.

And permit us, O Father of mercies, to petition for others, as well as for ourſelves. We would feel for thoſe thoughtleſs perſons, on whom the advantages of the day of reſt are beſtowed in vain. Have mercy, O Lord, on thoſe who *ſet at nought all thy counſel*, who are deaf even to the voice of mercy, even to the voice of *Jeſus the Mediator*, and to the *blood of ſprinkling, which ſpeaketh better things than the blood of Abel*. O thou, who canſt enlighten the darkeſt mind, and ſoften the hardeſt heart, be merciful to all ſuch, and give them to ſee and feel thoſe weighty, thoſe eternal truths, which it will be our ſalvation to regard, but our ruin to neglect.

And

And O let not thoſe who may have given ſome attention to thy word, ſatisfy themſelves with the knowledge of the truth. Let us be deeply convinced of the impoſſibility of being happy till our hearts are truly reconciled to thy will. May we not only *know the truth*, *but may the truth make us free*. Break every *bond of iniquity*; and enable us ſeriouſly to conſider that if but one chain hold us in the ſervice of ſin, the higheſt attainments in religious knowledge will avail us nothing.

O ſpirit of truth and love, do thou not only enlighten our minds, but warm our hearts with holy fire. Make our will conformable to thy will. Sanctify every affection of our hearts. Let all our powers conſpire to glorify our Creator.

We aſk theſe bleſſings in the name of that Saviour, who taught us to addreſs thee in theſe words,

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for Mercies, Temporal and Spiritual.

O LORD GOD, to whom we are indebted for all our enjoyments, graciouſly vouchſafe to hear us while we acknowledge them. From thee we receive all that renders the day pleaſant, and the night peaceful. Thou didſt beſtow on us the chearful light of day for our neceſſary employments, and thou haſt now brought on the ſtillneſs of the night, that we may be at reſt, and that our wearied nature may be refreſhed with ſleep.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the proviſions which thou haſt made for our bodies: but we have greater mercies than theſe to acknowledge. Thou haſt provided us with the means of *walking with God* by day, and of *lying down in peace* when our labours are over. O that every one of us may be bleſſed with that knowledge of Thee, as a *God of grace*,

grace, which thy faithful ſervants enjoy, and which makes them humble and thankful for the common comforts of life.

As *we ſinned and came ſhort of the glory of God*, we rendered ourſelves deſerving of thy wrath and indignation; nor had we any power in ourſelves to prevent our puniſhment. But although *thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity*, thou didſt not turn away thy face from our wretchedneſs. Thou didſt pity our ruined race, and ſeeing that *we were without ſtrength*, thou *didſt lay help upon one* who was *mighty to ſave*. We bleſs thee for ſending thy dear Son into the world, by whom thou couldeſt, conſiſtently with thy truth and righteouſneſs, *reconcile us unto thyſelf*, and be at once *juſt, and yet the juſtifier of* penitent and believing ſinners.

We would remember, in the uſe and enjoyment of all our bodily comforts, that we are *ſinful creatures*. We would not forget, that there is not a ſingle bleſſing which we have not *forfeited* by our diſobedience. We would humbly and thankfully recollect the means through which we receive all our bleſſings,

bleſſings, and that they are reſtored through the compaſſionate mediation of Him, who was *ſlain to take away the ſin of the world.* The *health* we have enjoyed this day, the *food* with which our table has been ſpread, the *ſleep* we hope for this night, and all that renders life comfortable, we owe to divine grace.

And if for theſe enjoyments, we are bound to *ſing of thy mercy*, how much more for the richer bleſſings of that redemption, which we obtain through the blood of Jeſus! O Lord, we have no words that will fully expreſs our obligations to Thee for theſe mercies. Here *thou art exalted above all bleſſing and praiſe.* But we will endeavour to *ſing thy praiſe* with all our powers; and thy grace ſhall be the ſubject of our thankſgiving.

And now, O Lord, ſince thou art willing to impart unto us ſpiritual and everlaſting bleſſings, give us wiſdom and grace to ſeek unto Thee for them. May we be more deſirous of theſe than of the comforts of the preſent life; yea ſo may we learn to eſtimate

the things that belong to our peace, as to *count all things but loſs, for the excellency of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus our Lord.*

Bleſſed be thy holy Name for offering theſe greater mercies to us miſerable ſinners, *without money, and without price.* Bleſſed be thy holy Name for declaring that *Whoſoever will may come, and take of the water of life freely.* Encouraged by this gracious invitation, ſo ſuited to our *low eſtate*, we now apply to Thee for *ſpiritual bleſſings.*

Vouchſafe unto us, moſt gracious God, the *pardon* of all our ſins. Grant unto us the ſpirit of *true repentance*, that we may feel that *godly ſorrow*, which becometh thoſe who have tranſgreſſed thy laws. *Sanctify us in body, ſoul, and ſpirit.* And if it pleaſe thee, may we be favoured with a comfortable perſuaſion of our being in a ſtate of reconciliation with thee; that our days may be brightened by faith and hope, that in our temporal enjoyments we may taſte thy love, and that we may be preſerved from all thoſe diſtreſſing thoughts, to which a conſciouſneſs of ſin renders us liable.

Gracious

Gracious God, may every one of us feel an earneſt deſire to be of thy family. May every one of us be enabled to lie down in the *ſpirit of adoption*; committing himſelf to thee as a child into the hands of a father. This is a privilege, O Lord, with which thou condeſcendeſt to honour thy ſervants. Help us to *put away* every thing that may prevent our enjoyment of it, and enable us to *walk as obedient children*.

Forgive, O Lord, whatever has been inconſiſtent with that character in our behaviour this day. Pity and pardon us, O moſt gracious Father, and be mercifully pleaſed ſtill to viſit us with thy favour, and grant us a peaceful and refreſhing night. And if we have another day given to us, may we endeavour to walk like thoſe whom thou haſt redeemed and ſanctified.

Theſe great bleſſings we implore at thy merciful hands, in the name of thy dear Son, our only Advocate, who condeſcended to teach us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

A General Prayer.

O *FATHER of mercies*, to whom the guilty muſt look for *pardon*, the neceſſitous muſt ſeek for *ſupplies*, and the ſufferer muſt come for *ſupport*, we direct our eyes to thee this morning; praying thee to be *about our path*, as thou haſt been *about our bed*.

O Lord, give us that *wiſdom which is profitable to direct* us in our courſe. Take away from us all blindneſs of mind. Let not *a deceived heart turn us aſide*; but may we walk by the light of thy word, till thou ſhalt call us to enjoy the clearer light of heaven.

We deſire not only to ſee the truth, but to love it alſo. Lord, give unto us that *hungering and thirſting after righteouſneſs*, which thou haſt promiſed to ſatisfy. We would be found always ſitting at the feet of

our Saviour, that we may know how we ought *to walk and pleaſe God.*

And may we *ſo learn of Him*, that our *profiting may appear unto all*, on every occaſion. If we are in proſperity, may we be *ſober and thankful.* If in adverſity, enable us to be *patient and ſubmiſſive.* If we are threatened with any evil, may we look to God as *our refuge.* If we are called to ſuffer for Chriſt's ſake, may we be thankful that we do *not ſuffer as evil doers.* If reproached, may we be *meek*; if poor and afflicted, may we be *contented* and *reſigned.* In all circumſtances, vouchſafe us the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that we may not only *endure* temptation, but alſo ſhew by our behaviour under it *what great things* thy grace *hath done for us.*

We intreat thee likewiſe, O Lord, to enable us to *glorify thy name* by the exemplary diſcharge of ſocial duties. As a houſhold, may we *love as brethren*; may we be ready to *bear one another's burdens*, and ſo *fulfil the law of Chriſt.* May we *walk in love* alſo towards all with whom we have any intercourſe; neither forgetting what is due to thoſe,

who

who deſerve good at our hands; nor failing to ſhew the *meekneſs and gentleneſs of Chriſt* towards thoſe, who may offend us.

May we not only avoid *giving offence* to others, but be deſirous likewiſe of *doing good* to them; ever ready to confer benefits, whether we ourſelves receive them or not. Incline our hearts to *deviſe liberal things*, O Lord, for it is *by liberal things we ſtand.*

Hear our humble requeſts, O Lord, for others as well as for ourſelves. May the *Church of the living God* flouriſh in the earth. May ſound doctrine be heard from her pulpits; holy living be ſeen among her members; peace be within her walls; and ſucceſs attend the labours of all thoſe, who are employed in her ſervice.

We pray thee, O Lord, to viſit with thy favour all places of public education; and eſpecially, the univerſities of this land. May they be nurſeries of piety, as well as of ſcience; that they who are educated in them, may become bleſſings to their country, in the

ſtations to which thy providence may appoint them.

Be gracious, O Father of Mercies, to all who are in want, or any other kind of affliction: may their ſorrows bring their ſins to remembrance; may they remember their ſins with true contrition of heart; and *in the multitude of their thoughts within them, may thy comforts delight their ſouls.*

Let the *light of thy countenance be lifted up*, O God of grace, on all thoſe who are *ſitting in darkneſs*. Turn all thoſe, O Lord, who are going forward in the *broad road which leadeth to deſtruction*. O that they may *think on their ways, and turn their feet unto thy teſtimonies*. Be graciouſly pleaſed to recover thoſe, who have gone back in the Chriſtian courſe; and give unto us the wiſdom to take warning by their example.

O Lord *ſtrengthen us; uphold us this day with the right hand of thy righteouſneſs*; that we may not only be *kept from falling*, but that we may go from grace to grace, and *ſtrength to ſtrength*, in the way of our duty.

We

We humbly beſeech thee to give thy bleſſing to all our labours. And while our hands are engaged in the affairs of this life, preſerve thou our hearts from being too much taken up with them. O endue us with grace to follow our earthly employments with a heavenly mind.

Theſe requeſts we humbly preſent in the Name of our only Mediator and Advocate, *Chriſt Jeſus the righteous*, in whoſe comprehenſive words we further addreſs thee, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Forgiveneſs.

O MOST gracious God, *be merciful to us ſinners.* With ſuch a prayer does it become fallen creatures to appear before thee; and bleſſed be thy Name, it is a prayer which

if it come from the heart, thou never wilt reject.

O that every one of us may perceive how much it behoveth him thus to approach thy throne. Do thou affect our minds with ſuch a ſenſe of the guilt of our ſins, as ſhall lead us, with true contrition of heart, to ſue for a full and free forgiveneſs. We can offer no excuſe for ſin; we can make no ſatisfaction for it; we are debtors who *have nothing to pay:* O Lord do thou *frankly forgive us.*

Bleſſed be thy name that *there is mercy with thee*—that there is mercy *for us*, if we ſeek it in thine own appointed way. Thou teacheſt us to ſeek for it, in and through the mediation of thy dear Son. And God forbid, that through pride of heart, we ſhould *ſtumble at that ſtone*, which thou *haſt laid in Zion for a Foundation.*

We flee to him as our only hope, who was ſet at nought. We apply to him as our interceſſor before God, who was condemned at the bar of Pontius Pilate. Into his hands we commit our everlaſting intereſts; and we bleſs

the God of all grace, that we have ſuch an *advocate with the Father* as *Jeſus Chriſt the righteous*.

But grant O Lord, that while we rely on the interceſſion of Jeſus, for the remiſſion of our paſt ſins, we may ever remember, that he came to *renew us unto holineſs*, as well as to take away our guilt. O let us feel the ſanctifying influence of that grace, which makes the pardoned offender aſhamed of his former ways, and fills his heart with the moſt earneſt deſires of *ſinning no more*.

We bleſs thee, O God of mercy, for the many declarations thou haſt made in thy word, of thy willingneſs to *paſs by the tranſgreſſions* of thoſe who return to thee. On theſe declarations may we reſt in peace; and truſt in him who ſaves the ſoul from death, to be our ſupport under all inferior evils. For although thou pardoneſt our iniquities, yet it may ſeem good unto thee, not to exempt us from trials. O ſuffer us not when under them, to *caſt away our confidence*. Let us liſten to thy rebukes, but enable us ſtill to

rely on thy mercy, and to derive comfort from thy promiſes.

And inaſmuch as our troubles often proceed from our own folly or negligence, *inſtruct us, O God, and teach us in the way in which thou wouldeſt have us to go*, that we may not bring ourſelves into difficulties. May we be always waiting on thee with ſimplicity for thy guidance; and with alacrity, obey the firſt intimations of thy will.

Let there be no want of teachableneſs in us with reſpect to any part of our duty. May the language of our hearts be always, *Lord, what wouldeſt thou have us to do?* Deliver us from pride, obſtinacy, and prejudice. May we be glad to receive inſtruction from our Chriſtian brethren. May we be patient of reproof, and thankful for godly counſel.

We bleſs thy holy Name, if we be in any meaſure truly deſirous of thus framing our hopes and conduct according to thy holy word. And we intreat thee to have mercy on all thoſe, whom ignorance, whom pride, and ſtubbornneſs of heart keep yet far from thee.

O Lord,

O Lord, if there any reaſon to believe, that *we* are not in ſuch a ſtate, it is to thy power over our hearts that we muſt aſcribe the difference. Let not what grace hath done for us, make us forget what we are by nature. Here we will raiſe an Ebenezer; and recollecting the bleſſings we have received this and every day of our lives, and how unworthy we are of them all, we will write upon it, *not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name be the praiſe.*

Preſerve us this night, O Lord, from all evil, and may we be raiſed up from our beds in the morning, to praiſe thee for new mercies beſtowed on us, through the interceſſion of thy dear Son our Lord; who taught us thus to call upon thy name,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

That we may not be left to Ourſelves.

ALMIGHTY God, we humbly intreat thee to look down upon us thy unworthy creatures, whom thou haſt repeatedly preſerved from evil.

We thank Thee for guarding and refreſhing us during the paſt night, and for bringing us ſafe to the beginning of this day. But, O Lord, we ſtand in need of thy care over us ſtill; for we are too weak to be left to ourſelves. It was thy hand which raiſed us up from the bed; and now we need that hand to lead us all through the day, that we may be *kept from falling*. *Hold thou up our goings, that our footſteps ſlip not.*

Wherever we are, be thou with us, as a *God of Grace*. Let us do nothing that would provoke thee to depart from us: *The light that* may then be *in us will be darkneſs*, and our

our ſtrength will be gone. O lead us all in that *narrow way*, in which thy preſence is obtained and enjoyed; and whenever we are tempted to turn aſide from it, either to the right hand or to the left, let us hear thy gracious voice, ſaying to us, *This is the way, walk therein*; and grant that we may be obedient to it.

O thou *keeper of Iſrael*, who haſt apprized us of the deſigns and the devices of Satan, ſuffer not this adverſary to ſeduce us from the path of duty. Guard every ſenſe and every faculty of our nature, that they may not become inlets to his temptations. Let the fear of our God operate powerfully in our hearts, regulating the exerciſe of our eyes, our ears, our tongues, our feet, and all our mental as well as bodily faculties; that *our enemy may not get an advantage over us* by the forbidden uſe of them.

May thy good ſpirit cauſe us to *walk humbly with God* this day. And, foraſmuch as *pride goeth before a fall*, keep us *low in our own eyes*, that we may ſtand: for though *confuſion of face belongeth to us*, we are ſtrongly inclined

inclined by nature to pride. O let us be frequently looking back on the days of ignorance; that we may be reminded of what we are in ourſelves, and that if there be *any good thing in our hearts towards the Lord our God*, we may give the glory to him to whom it is due, and ſay, *this hath God wrought*.

We would live hour by hour in this humble ſenſe of our being indebted to thee, O Lord, for all we have, and all we hope for. May we undertake every thing under a ſenſe of our weakneſs; not confiding in our powers, but in thy grace, which is alone *ſufficient for us*: for O Lord, *when we are thus weak in ourſelves, we are ſtrong in thee.*

In thy ſtrength would we go forth this morning; however difficult the duties of this day may be, thou canſt enable us to diſcharge them. The things that may befal us may require ſtrong faith, great patience, great zeal, or ſelf-denial: but thou canſt impart to us *grace ſufficient* for all theſe things. O look upon our ſpiritual as well as upon our temporal wants, and make us to know that thy

thy power and mercy is as great as our neceſſities.

We humbly beg, O Lord, that we may partake of the *joys of thy ſalvation. Though we ſee not Jeſus* with our bodily eyes, *yet may we love him, and believing in him, may we rejoice with joy unſpeakable and full of glory.* But ſhould we be afflicted with melancholy thoughts, do thou ſanctify the trial, that in the end it may produce a good effect upon us. The pleaſures as well as the power of religion are thy gifts; let us look to thee for them, and acknowledge thy mercy in the enjoyment of them.

Finally, O Lord, we pray thee to give us more and more of thy grace, that we may live more devoted to thy will, that we may better employ our time, and our talents, and that we may more effectually ſhew forth the *praiſes of him who hath called us out of darkneſs into his marvellous light.*

Hear, O merciful God, and anſwer, for the ſake of our bleſſed Mediator and Advocate.

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For a true Converſion of the Heart to God.

O GLORIOUS God, what are we that we ſhould preſume to lift up our eyes unto thee! We have *gone aſtray like loſt ſheep*. We have broken thy laws, notwithſtanding they are *holy, juſt, and good*. We have forgotten the Lord our Maker and our benefactor. Yet *there is mercy with thee*; the ſinner has an *advocate with the Father*; and if he deſire to return to God, the way is open.

How juſtly mighteſt thou indeed have given us up to the luſts of our own hearts. Juſtly mighteſt thou leave us without any other help or comfort, than this vain and empty world could afford. But though *ſin aboundeth, thy grace aboundeth much more*. When we apply to thee for help, thou doſt not ſend us back to our idols, but *receiveſt us graciouſly: thine anger is turned away, and thou comforteſt us*.

And

And now, O moſt merciful Lord, *what manner of love is this!* Shall not we, thy frail and ſinful creatures, be filled with wonder and thankfulneſs for ſuch abundant grace! Praiſed be that power, which brings back the wandering ſinner to God; adored be that wiſdom, which deviſed a method of ſalvation by which he could be received again into the favour of his Creator: But who can fully ſet forth the depth of that compaſſion and condeſcenſion, which thine ever bleſſed Son has manifeſted towards us, in coming *to ſeek and to ſave that which was loſt!* Behold us now as a family intreating thee to bleſs us with an experimental knowledge of that happineſs which is found in returning to Thee. Let us no more be deluded by the vaniſhing *pleaſures of ſin*; no longer be deceived by what this world may promiſe. O grant that every one of this houſe may partake of that grace, which brings the wandering and periſhing ſinner home to God.

And may thoſe of us whom thou haſt brought into thy fold, ſo remember the madneſs and miſery of ſin, as to be afraid of being again entangled in its *ſnares*. Let us duly

conſider,

conſider, that though we may be recovered to a deep ſenſe of religion, we are yet frail creatures: O let that power which brought us home to our Father's houſe, keep us there. And may we *watch* as well as *pray*, *that we enter not into temptation.*

Teach us ſo to remember the errors of our former ignorant ſtate, as no more to miſtake *evil for good*, *nor light for darkneſs.* May we not have to learn again, that forbidden pleaſure has a ſting; let it be enough for us, to have already felt it. May our ſouls refuſe to taſte of ſinful joys; remembering, that although there may be a momentary ſweetneſs in them, they leave behind them great bitterneſs, and enduring pain.

We pray thee, to increaſe in us a deſire after better pleaſures than thoſe of the world. Let not that *hungering and thirſting after righteouſneſs*, which thy Holy Spirit excites in the ſoul, ever abate. And may we be ſo ſatisfied with the bleſſings which thy word ſets before us, as to feel no inordinate deſire after other things.

But

But thou haſt taught us to be concerned for the welfare of others as well as ourſelves; we therefore humbly pray thee, to look with thy wonted compaſſion on all thoſe who are ſtill *as ſheep going aſtray*; that they may *return to the ſhepherd and biſhop of their ſouls*, and *abide in Chriſt* unto the end.

Forgive us, O Lord, for having this day ſo little felt our obligations to love and ſerve thee. Yet although we are at beſt but *unprofitable ſervants*, thou art from day to day pouring down thy bleſſings upon us; and encouraging us by thy providential goodneſs, as well as by the declarations of thy word, to commit ourſelves to thy care: which we do this night, O Lord, in the name of that bleſſed Saviour, through whoſe mediation we hope, unworthy as we are, to find acceptance with Thee.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

General Thankſgiving.

GREAT and holy God, when we approach thee, even with the tribute of praiſe, we would remember, that we can add nothing to Thee: But we ought to acknowledge thy perfections; and we take pleaſure in aſcribing all power, wiſdom, holineſs, and goodneſs, to Thee our gracious Creator.

O thou who condeſcendeſt to receive praiſe from unworthy creatures, be pleaſed to accept our thankſgivings. We glorify thee for all thy mercies; but eſpecially for the bleſſings, which thou haſt given us in our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; in whom, thou haſt revealed thyſelf *rich in mercy to all who call upon thee.*

Lord, what is man, that thy beloved Son ſhould take upon him the nature, the ſins, and the ſorrows, of this frail worm! We would

would be thankful for all that he did; for the *doctrine* he taught, the *example* that he ſet us, and the *ſacrifice* that he made of himſelf for our ſakes. We bleſs Thee for his *reſurrection*, for his *aſcenſion*, for his ſending down the *Holy Ghoſt*, and appointing a ſtanding *miniſtry* in his church.

And while, O Lord, we thankfully recount theſe things, we pray that we may make ſuch a devout and uſeful application of them to ourſelves, as ſhall fulfil the purpoſes for which they are made known to us. May we draw comfort from our Saviour's doctrine. May we copy his life, and live by his death. May we *riſe with him* now, in holineſs; and, in due time, aſcend after him into the world of glory: and till that bleſſed hour ſhall come, may we be living a *life of* habitual *faith in the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himſelf for us.*

May the name of our God be for ever adored, for ſending the *goſpel of peace* into theſe lands. Bleſſed be thy name for its holy precepts; its inſtructive examples; and its exceeding *great and precious promiſes.*

O that as it hath pleaſed thee to afford us this heavenly light, we may walk by it from day to day!

We thank Thee for the comfortable proſpects, which the holy ſcriptures give of a future ſtate. Let us rejoice in the hope, which all true chriſtians have, of *being with Chriſt, and of beholding his glory*. May we be increaſing daily in longing deſires after this bliſsful ſtate, and endeavour to become more meet for it every day.

In calling thy mercies to mind, let us not forget, that we have many temporal bleſſings to acknowledge. Of theſe comforts we enjoy more than we deſerve; of afflictions we ſuffer leſs than we deſerve. Accept then, O moſt gracious Lord, our thanks for all the health, and ſtrength, and peace, with which thou haſt viſited this houſe. And if to theſe temporal enjoyments thou haſt added to any one the bleſſing of a ſanctified heart, we will all thank thee in behalf of that perſon. O let every one ſeek after that prime bleſſing, which teaches us how to value every other favour.

Bleſs theſe children, O our God, with thy grace. Incline their hearts to *ſeek thee early.* Keep them from being ſeduced by the things of this world. May they perceive the littleneſs of its great things; the poverty of what appears rich; and the poiſon that is mixed with many of its pleaſures.

Bleſs our ſervants; may they know how much they are bound to be thankful, that in thy good Providence they are placed in a family which calls upon thy name. And may they ſo improve this and every other religious advantage, as to ſhew that they are faithful ſervants of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

Keep us all this day, O Lord, endeavouring, in our ſeveral vocations, to ſerve thee with ſimplicity and ſingleneſs of heart; *neither ſlothful in buſineſs, nor overcharged with the cares of this world.* May we *ſet the Lord always before us*, and daily rejoice in the proſpect of that bleſſed ſtate, in which thoſe who *die in the Lord ſhall reſt from* all *their labours*, through the merit of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Hear us, we beſeech thee, O

Lord, in the words with which thy bleſſed Son taught us to approach the throne of grace:

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For Stedfaſtneſs in Religion.

HOW manifold are thy mercies, moſt good and gracious God! Accept, we beſeech thee, our thankſgivings for all the bleſſings which we have received this day.

Great and many are the bleſſings of the preſent life which thy bountiful hand hath beſtowed; but theſe are but a *part of thy ways* of mercy: to theſe comforts thou haſt added that ineſtimable bleſſing, The light of the *glorious goſpel.* We thank thee, gracious Lord, for the revelation of thy mercy in Chriſt Jeſus, through whom, all our ſins and all our unrighteouſ-

unrighteouſneſs may be forgiven, our hearts ſanctified, and made to *rejoice in God all the day long*.

O give us to *receive thy word with all readineſs of mind*; and may we know it to be the *power of God to our ſalvation*. May we not only aſſent to the truth, but be determined by it. Never let us be *aſhamed of Chriſt or his words*. Whether condemned or approved by men, may we *ſtand faſt in the Lord*, and *cleave to him with full purpoſe of heart*.

Guard us, O Lord, againſt the ſnares of thoſe, who *lie in wait to deceive*. Let no falſe light lead us aſtray. Let not our *minds be corrupted from the ſimplicity which is in Chriſt*.

Moſt gracious God, what a mercy ought we to account it, if the love of this preſent world, which is ſo natural to us, hath not plunged us into thoſe *fooliſh* and *hurtful luſts which drown men in deſtruction and perdition*. O let the hand which hath hitherto preſerved us, ſtill defend us.

And do thou not only keep us ſtedfaſt in the profeſſion of the truth, but preſerve us likewiſe from the ſin and miſery of a *divided heart*. Be thou ever the *deſire of our ſouls*, that there may be no returning reliſh for thoſe things, which are the food of vain and diſtempered minds. Let *thy loving-kindneſs be better to us than life*; and may we be ſo *abundantly ſatisfied with the goodneſs of thy houſe*, as to have no wiſh to be any where elſe, nor any deſire for what is to be found out of it.

O how much do we need the continual influence of thy Holy Spirit, to keep alive in us theſe ſpiritual deſires. We beſeech Thee to afford this grace day by day. Grant us *the ſpirit of power, and of love, and of a ſound mind*. Keep open our eyes to the *great things of thy law*. Keep alive our concern *to be found of Chriſt in peace*, when he ſhall come to call us hence. And ſtir us up to more diligence in that great work of ſalvation, in which, we have never yet been ſo much in earneſt as we ought.

O Lord, we need not declare to thee what we have been this day; *thou knoweſt our fooliſhneſs*,

foolishness, and our faults are not hidden from thee. Thou knowest how much of God, and how much of the world, there hath been in our hearts; O that *we* may but know it, and be affected as we ought to be, to perceive, that nature is so strong, and grace is so weak in us!

But though small is the effect of all that thou hast taught us, in comparison of what it ought to be, yet thou continuest still to preserve and bless us. This night we confess our own unfruitfulness, and thine abundant and undeserved goodness to us. Let us wonder and adore.

O God of infinite patience and mercy, we commend ourselves, and all we are bound to pray for, to thee this night: beseeching thee to forgive us, and accept us, for the sake of thy dear Son our Lord; who instructed us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For Faith and its Fruits.

O GOD our refuge and our ſtrength, by whoſe providence our natural life is preſerved, and by whoſe grace we obtain life eternal; look down upon this family, now aſſembled to acknowledge thy gracious care over us during the laſt night, and to beg thy bleſſing upon us through the day.

May we lift up our hearts to thee in faith and hope, as unto one, who will aſſuredly hear the prayers of thoſe, who come to thee in the name of thy dear Son. When we aſk for bleſſings, do thou *look upon the face of thine anointed*, and for his ſake, hear, and forgive, and anſwer thy ſervants.

We bleſs thee for the many encouraging words which thou haſt uttered for the comfort of thoſe, who have been humbled by ſeeing the *exceeding ſinfulneſs of ſin. O God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing* them.

Enable

Enable us to exerciſe a full confidence in thy power and grace. *Lord we believe, help our unbelief.* Let not our unbelief keep us from *coming to Jeſus*, and obtaining that reſt, which he promiſes to the weary and heavy-laden. We would approach thee with a truly *contrite heart*, but ſuffer us not to doubt of Chriſt's being able and willing *to ſave to the uttermoſt*. Our ſins, alas! have *abounded*; but thy *grace hath much more abounded:* may we rejoice in this from day to day.

But never let us abuſe the *riches of thy grace!* Art thou able to deſtroy, and yet willing to ſave? O let thy mercies conſtrain us to *preſent ourſelves a living ſacrifice to thee.* May we henceforth live, O Lord, as thoſe, who are *not their own*, but thine.

Look in mercy upon us now going forth to our ſeveral vocations. May we be ſo taught to know *what is good for us*, as to be thankful that we have an employment. Let us never reſiſt that appointment of thine, which obliges man to be found in ſome lawful calling. May we enter upon the buſineſs we have to do with cheerfulneſs, and purſue it with diligence.

gence. Vouchſafe us, O Lord, the bleſſings which generally attend diligence; but ſave us from the ſnares of that proſperity, with which it is ſometimes followed.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to forget where we are. May we remember that we are in a wicked and enſnaring world, that we may ſtand on our guard. And do thou, O Lord, *keep us from the evil that is in it*. May *Chriſt reign in our hearts by faith*, that through him we may *overcome the world*.

And O that we may *live as the ſervants of Chriſt*, as long as we continue here. May we ſhew by our conduct, that *we are ſeeking a better country, even a heavenly*. Let not the men of the world, ſee thy profeſſed diſciples purſuing the periſhing things of this life, as eagerly as themſelves.

Enable us to live daily in the exerciſe of chriſtian tempers; not only *rendering unto all what is due* to them, but endeavouring, while we *have time, to do good unto all men*.

O that

O that we may learn, *whatſoever ſtate we are in, therewith to be content.* Let thoſe who rule in this houſe, and thoſe who ſerve in it, obtain grace to perform their reſpective duties with cheerfulneſs and fidelity. And may we *live in love one towards another.* Let thy fear dwell in every heart; that every one may keep his place, and be happy and uſeful in it.

May it pleaſe thee, O Lord, to have mercy upon all men. *Give the King thy judgments, O Lord.* "Endue thy miniſters with righteouſneſs." Let thy light and thy truth ſpread every where. Preſerve the proſperous from forgetting God; keep the afflicted from ſinking under their burdens, and teach them to know, that thou canſt make their trials *work for their good.* Theſe bleſſings, we aſk in the name of Jeſus the Mediator; who taught us to addreſs thee, in theſe words,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY

FRIDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for Magiſtrates.

" WE praiſe thee, O God, and let all the earth acknowledge thee to be the Lord." Let us attend the *outgoings of the morning and evening* with prayer and praiſe. We bleſs thee for repeated and continued mercies; and we pray, that every renewed inſtance of thy goodneſs, may lead us to live a more humble, holy, and thankful life.

We would call to remembrance our obligations to thee, for appointing our lot in a land, in which there are the comforts of order and regular government; ſince thou haſt favoured us with the benefits of this thine ordinance, O Lord, may we be thankful for them; and never provoke thee, by our ſins, to withhold theſe bleſſings from us.

Give us grace to be always attentive to the duties which we owe to thoſe, whom thou haſt ſet over us. Thou haſt commanded us

to

to *honour* them, and to *pray* for them; ſuffer us not to ſin againſt thee by neglecting theſe duties.

Let thy bleſſing deſcend on all chriſtian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and eſpecially on thy ſervant our King. We would, with a truly chriſtian concern, recollect the dangerous temptations, and weighty duties of his ſituation. O Lord afford him the aſſiſtance of that grace he ſtands in need of, both for the ſalvation of his own ſoul, and the able diſcharge of the duties of his high ſtation.

Direct him, O thou Author of *every good and perfect gift*, in the choice of all thoſe whom he appoints to places of truſt, whether civil or eccleſiaſtical; and make thoſe whom he ſo appoints, faithful in their vocations; that through their virtuous and able conduct, he may be the happy and honoured inſtrument of preſerving the lives, enlarging the comforts, and ſaving the ſouls of his people.

We pray thee, O Lord, to bleſs him in his family, as well as in his government. Bleſs

the Queen, with the comforts of health, domeſtic happineſs, and religion. Bleſs likewiſe all the royal offspring; eſpecially the Heir-apparent. And may they all have grace to employ their influence for the glory of thy holy name.

And we pray thee, O Lord, to give unto our Sovereign the *comforts* of well-ordered government, as well as the gifts that are neceſſary to his high office. Let not evil men be ſuffered to defeat his good deſigns, or to diſturb his peace. May he be bleſſed with an obedient and loyal people. Ever may it be the earneſt wiſh of his heart to ſee order, peace, plenty, and true religion, flouriſhing in his kingdom, and ever may he rejoice in ſeeing thy Divine Providence ſhower down theſe bleſſings on his ſubjects.

We muſt confeſs that we have rendered ourſelves unworthy of theſe national bleſſings. But ſtill remember us, O Lord, in mercy; and may we as a nation return to thee, from whom we have departed, that we may yet be a favoured people.

We would lament, among other national ſins, the great neglect, with which the pure goſpel of Chriſt hath been treated by many in our country. Pour out upon us the influence of thine illuminating ſpirit, that we may ſee the nature and glory of true chriſtianity. May the *truth as it is in Jeſus* be heard from all our pulpits. To that name, *at which every knee ſhall bow*, may honour be paid in courts, in ſenates, in churches, and among all ranks and orders of men among us. And may all the deliberations and reſolutions of Government be directed to the furtherance of that knowledge and practice in which our Lord and Saviour Chriſt hath inſtructed us.

Let thy bleſſing attend the labours of all thoſe among us, who are devoted to thee in the chriſtian miniſtry. Increaſe the number of them who are not *not aſhamed of the Goſpel of Chriſt*; and may their lives ſhew forth the excellency of their doctrines.

With theſe favours bleſs our land, O Lord, and not ours only, but all the nations of the earth.

May we of this family walk before thee like thoſe, who are taught by thy holy word, and influenced by thy holy ſpirit, to *fear God*; to *honour the King*; to *love the Brotherhood*; and to *render to all their dues*. Vouchſafe us protection this night, and forgive the ſins of the paſt day, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Acknowledging our Unfruitfulneſs.

O THOU moſt merciful God, under the *ſhadow of whoſe wings* we have paſſed the night in ſafety, be pleaſed to accept the thank-offerings with which we begin this day.

We acknowledge it as a great mercy, that *we are all here before God* this morning. May we ſeriouſly conſider, that the day which thou

thou haſt given to us, is a day of probation; enable us to enter on it as ſuch: And may we earneſtly look up to thee for *grace to ſerve Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.*

8

O Lord, how much does thy goodneſs as well as thine authority, oblige us thus to live! But we are naturally *unthankful and unholy.* If it were not ſo, the many favours we have received from thy hand, would have led us to a more obedient life than we live; *Time* would be better ſpent; *Talents* would be better employed; the *Goſpel* would be more honoured, and our heavenly Father more glorified.

O God, *to us belongeth confuſion of face*; but well is it for us, that *to Thee belong mercies and forgiveneſs.* We bleſs thee for a Mediator;—for the *blood that cleanſeth from all ſin*;—and for the encouragement we have to look to him, who *ever liveth to make interceſſion* for the guilty: We would draw near to thee by this *new and living way*, and humbly beg that *God for Chriſt's ſake would forgive* all our ſins.

We come to thee, in the name of a crucified Saviour, not only for pardon, but alſo for grace, to *go and ſin no more*. Lord, hear this requeſt; and as thou haſt been pleaſed to bring us to the beginning of this day, ſo be with us in every moment of it; that we may be *guided by thy counſel*, *upheld* by thy hand, and *comforted* by thy ſpirit.

O caſt us not away from thy preſence, nor take thy Holy Spirit from us. Be thou our guide, or we ſhall wander from the paths of peace. Leave us not to ourſelves; for our frequent falls have taught us to fear, that unleſs we have thy ſupport, we ſhall not ſtand.

Remember how ſtrong the corruption of nature is; and impart unto us grace ſufficient to overpower every evil inclination in us, that *ſin may not have dominion over us*. Remember how forcible example is; and preſerve us from being *led away with the error of the wicked*. Remember the craft and vigilance of our ſpiritual adverſary; and ſuffer him not to *get an advantage over us*.

Fill our ſouls, O Lord, with a holy reverence of thine all-ſeeing eye, that we may be preſerved from every thing which is offenſive in thy ſight. Give us wiſely to ſhun every place, and every perſon, and every thing, which may lead to that which is evil. Suffer not our minds to be deceived; but above all, let not our hearts be hardened: *keep back thy ſervants* from all ſins, but eſpecially from *preſumptuous ſins*.

We are now entering on the laſt day of another week; O that it may be the beſt day! For there is indeed great room for improvement; Lord, make us more zealous of it.

We intreat thee to aſſiſt all thy miniſtering ſervants this day, in their endeavours to be prepared for the ſervice of the approaching Sabbath.

And may *we* be ſeeking to be prepared for thy word; not only putting the affairs of this life in ſuch order to day, as ſhall prevent their interrupting us tomorrow, but alſo looking up to thee for that *preparation of*

heart, with which we ought to attend thine ordinances.

Hear Lord, in heaven thy dwelling place, and anſwer, and forgive, for thy dear Son's ſake; who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

For the renewing Influence of Divine Grace.

LET *the living praiſe thee*, O God; let them ſing aloud of thy forbearance and long ſuffering. We are yet numbered with them, and are bound to acknowledge, that *it is of thy mercies, that we are not conſumed.*

O God, merciful and gracious, may we know thee, not only as *ſlow to anger*, but likewiſe, as *able to ſave*. Not only bear with us, but turn us to thyſelf; that we may no more

more abuſe thy patience. O thou, who haſt the hearts of all in thine hand, *let it be known that thou art God;* and that thou art able to *take away the heart of ſtone, and to give us an heart of fleſh.*

We pray thee to *make all things new* within us: For till our nature is renewed by thy Holy Spirit, it is corrupt in every part. Our underſtanding, our will, and our affections, are all in diſorder. We are, alas! *wiſe to do evil*, and active in purſuit of the goods of this world; but, towards God, we are *fooliſh and diſobedient;* yea, we are *dead in treſpaſſes and ſins.*

But life and death are both in thine hands, O God. If thou *ſayeſt to us live*, thy word ſhall aſſuredly make us live. O ſpeak then, the gracious word, that we may be delivered from that deplorable inſenſibility of the things of God, and that ſhameful inactivity in religion, which we have heretofore ſhewn. Let us look back, with a penitent eye, upon that part of our lives in which we lived unconcerned about God; neither dreading his wrath, nor ſoftened by his grace.

Suffer us no longer to *refuſe him who ſpeaketh from heaven.* Thou, Lord, *ſtandeſt at the door, and knockeſt*, and ſayeſt, *If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in and ſup with him!* Is it to a poor mortal thou ſpeakeſt thus, O Lord? Is it to a ſinful worm! O what condeſcenſion! Enter within our door, Heavenly Gueſt! Take up thine abode in our hearts. *We are not worthy that thou ſhouldeſt come under our roof*, but ſince thou art willing to enter, let it be a *habitation for thyſelf.*

And do thou, moſt glorious God and Saviour, not only dwell, but reign in us. O lift up thy mighty hand againſt every rebellious inclination of our hearts, and ſubdue every diſpoſition, which oppoſeth itſelf to thy will.

Let us never provoke thee to leave us, O thou, our beſt friend, by the allowance of any unholy temper, or the neglect of any duty. Let us be always liſtening to thy word; always obedient to the motions of thy Holy Spirit; always watching againſt ſin;

and

and always praying to be kept from *falling into temptation.*

Thou haſt conducted us to the concluſion of another week; for all the mercies of which, we deſire to be thankful. *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wiſdom.* Our laſt week, our laſt day, our laſt hour, muſt come: O that we may ſtand always ready for it.

Should we live to ſee another Sabbath, may we enter on the day with fervent deſires to profit by it. Prepare our bodies, O Lord, by refreſhing ſleep, to attend the ſervice of thy houſe. Prepare our hearts, by thine Holy Spirit, to worſhip thee with reverence, and to obtain great edification from the miniſtry of thy word. May we look forward to the Sabbath with earneſt deſire, and may the proſpect of a *day ſpent in thy courts*, be always delightful to us.

Teach us, O Lord, to praiſe thee continually for that mercy, which led thee to ſet apart a day of reſt, that we might hear the *glad tidings* of ſalvation. O let not one of us

be

be ignorant of the value of this bleſſing. May we *hear thy word with joy*, and be prepared by the worſhip of thy courts below, to join that heavenly choir which ſhall praiſe thee in the world of glory. Theſe mercies we look for through Jeſus Chriſt, our only hope.

Our Father, &c.

THIRD

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

For a Bleſſing on the Ordinances of public Worſhip.

O LORD God, who haſt in mercy given to us, thine unworthy creatures, another Sabbath, be graciouſly pleaſed to enable us to *keep* it *holy*. We bleſs thy name for all the opportunities which this day may afford us of obtaining wiſdom. May we feel the worth of our ſouls, that we may know how to value all thoſe means of grace, which thou haſt appointed.

O gracious Lord, be pleaſed to bleſs the aſſemblies of chriſtian worſhippers with thy preſence; that the ſervices of thy houſe may be conducted with ſuch order, ſuch an impreſſive ſanctity, and ſuch an improving influence on our ſpirits, as may convince us that *God is among us of a truth*.

O thou

O thou *who didſt command the light to ſhine out of darkneſs*, in mercy *ſhine into our hearts*; that we may ſavingly *know Thee the only true God, and Jeſus Chriſt whom thou haſt ſent.*

Shew forth on us thy new-creating power, O Lord, in cauſing us to *put off the old man with his deeds, and to put on the new man, which after thine image is created in righteouſneſs and true holineſs.*

And may that bleſſed Saviour whom thou haſt appointed to be a *light to lighten the Gentiles*, bring *many out of darkneſs into his marvellous light.* May he, who for our ſakes was a man of ſorrows, *ſee of the travail of his ſoul* this day, and rejoice in the recovery of many a loſt ſinner.

Moſt gracious God, we bleſs thee for frequent opportunities of inſtruction; for enlightened and faithful miniſters; for having *the things that belong to our peace* ſet before us. To theſe mercies, O Lord, we intreat thee to add the influence of thy quickening ſpirit: that thy word may be ſtill made to

humble

humble the proud, to *melt* the hardened, to *ſanctify* the unholy, and *comfort* the diſtreſſed.

We thank God, that we are not deprived, by want of health, of the opportunity of attending thy houſe. We pray that our *ſouls*, as well as our *bodies*, may be prepared for the duties of the day. Give us a *thankful ſenſe of thy mercies*; that we may praiſe God with the heart as well as the lips. Give us a *contrite remembrance of our ſins*; that our confeſſions may not be mere forms. Give us a *ſenſe of our entire dependance on thee*; that our prayers may not be words of courſe, but the humble and earneſt requeſts of creatures, who know and feel their neceſſities. Let us hear thy word with that devout attention which becomes thoſe who have ſo much to learn, who are ſo liable to err, ſo prone to deceive themſelves, and ſo much in danger of being deceived by the world. Let us not only receive its inſtructions, but alſo taſte the comforts which it imparteth to the humble hearer.

And we pray likewiſe, O Lord, that thou wouldeſt preſerve us from failing in thoſe private

private duties, with which public worſhip ſhould be followed. Let us remember that there is ſomething which muſt be done in retirement: There, by ſerious meditation, by carefully reviewing our paſt lives, and by earneſt prayer, may we ſeek to have our hearts eſtabliſhed in thy truth.

Enable us to improve all the opportunities this day may afford for offices of benevolence. Suffer us not to waſte thoſe hours in frivolous converſation, which may be ſo much more profitably employed, in exerciſes of devotion, or works of charity.

O Lord let not the *Sabbath be a wearineſs* to us. Deliver us from that wretched averſion to holy and ſpiritual employments, which is, alas! natural to us, and make this day *a delight* to us. May we ſo enjoy all its duties, as to long for that eternal Sabbath, for which thy Church on earth is waiting.

O may we become more and more prepared for that bleſſed ſtate. Whatever knowledge be wanting, whatever faith, whatever ſtrength, impart it to us, O Lord. We are

poor,

poor, but thou art rich. We are in ourſelves empty of all good, but we come to thee, who art the fountain of all good, that we may be ſupplied. And for this we pray, in the name of our only Lord and Saviour, who taught us to call on thee in theſe words,

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

That public Inſtruction may be made effectual to our Salvation.

SUFFER us not to come before thee, O Lord, with a light and trifling mind. Though we are permitted to lift up our voices to Thee, let us remember, that *thou art in heaven, and we are on earth:* Thou art *glorious in holineſs*, but we are *tranſgreſſors from the womb.*

O let the prayers and praiſes of a family of weak and ſinful creatures, be heard this night. Great and many are the bleſſings we have received

received this day: let our ſouls be filled with humility, in recollecting how unworthy we have rendered ourſelves of them.

Although we live *without God*, thou doſt not leave us to ſuch a life, without ſhewing us its wretchedneſs, and its danger. Though we *turn our back* to thee, thou calleſt after us. We ſeek our happineſs where it is not, but Thou, in mercy, ſheweſt us where it is.

O let not this mercy be ſhewn to us in vain. *Turn thou us, and we ſhall be turned; for thou art the Lord our God.* Give effect to thy word, which we have heard this day; that we may not only *know the truth*, but that *the truth may make us free.*

Grant, O merciful Lord, that we may experience all the bleſſings, which it holds forth to us, and be delivered from all the evils, againſt which it teſtifies. Take away the *carnal mind, which is enmity againſt God;* the *evil heart of unbelief*, which leads us *to depart from thee;* the *deceived heart, which turns us aſide;* and the *ſtony heart*, which neither

neither dreads thy wrath, nor deſires thy grace.

O Lord, give unto us that *new heart*, which thou haſt promiſed in thy word to beſtow on the children of men; that being *created anew in Chriſt Jeſus, unto good works*, we may no longer live eſtranged from thee. Cauſe us to love Thee, and then *thy commandments will not be grievous*.

We have great reaſon to be aſhamed, O Lord, when we reflect on the little effect, which the revelation of thy mercy hath produced upon us. How little are our hearts impreſſed with the wonders of Redemption; with the love of God in *giving his Son for us*; with the compaſſion of that Saviour, who came down from heaven to die for us! What are we, after all that we have heard of the labours, the ſorrows, and the pains, which he endured for our ſakes!

O may thy holy Spirit *ſhed abroad in our hearts*, more of the love of God than we have ever yet felt; that we being influenced by thy mercies, may *preſent ourſelves a living ſacrifice*

to the God of our Salvation. To Him, *who forgiveth all our iniquities, and healeth all our diſeaſes, who redeemeth our life from deſtruction, and crowneth us with loving kindneſs and tender mercies*; to Him, be devoted all that we have, and all that we are; and let every one in this houſe ſay from his heart, Amen. O give us grace, to continue faithful to this ſurrender of ourſelves to thee. We would *join ourſelves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant, never to be forgotten.*

Permit us, O gracious Father, to commend the neceſſities and dangers of all our fellow-creatures to thy mercy. Let the light of thy Goſpel ſhine upon thoſe, who are now *ſitting* in *darkneſs.* Look in mercy on thoſe, who though not ſituated in heathen lands, are living without *Chriſt, without hope, and without God in the world.* Let all chriſtian churches be watered with the dew of heaven. Hear the prayers offered up this day for all chriſtian magiſtrates; eſpecially thoſe offered up for the King, whom thou haſt ſet over us.

Hear the prayers likewiſe, O Lord, which we have put up for the afflicted. O look

look thou upon thoſe who are deſtitute of health; on thoſe who ſtand in need of one to comfort them; and on thoſe who have not bread to eat. However various our wants be, thou art able to ſupply them all, without diminiſhing thine own fulneſs. May we glorify thy mercy, as well as thy power, by believing, that thou art willing, as well as able, to give us the things that we need.

Vouchſafe reſt and ſafety this night, O Lord, to us, to our dear relations, and to all this neighbourhood, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. In his name, O *thou that heareſt prayer*, we draw nigh to thee, and conclude our requeſts in the words which he taught us;

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That the Influence of God's Word may continue.

HOLY and gracious God, we draw near again to the footſtool of thy throne, for our wants are always returning upon us: Bleſſed be thy Name! thou art ever willing to ſupply them.

We thank thee for the inſtructions of thy holy word: Let us reckon them among the greateſt bleſſings of our preſent ſtate, and be daily praying to thee, that *our underſtanding may be opened* to receive them.

But, O Lord, we want ſtrength as well as light. Though we *ſee* great things, yet we *follow* after little things. We diſcern ſubſtance, but we are not weaned from ſhadows. We ſuffer carnal and worldly objects to divert our attention from thoſe which are ſpiritual and heavenly.

We

We therefore appear before thee to beg, that thou wouldeſt be pleaſed to make that heavenly ſeed, which was ſown yeſterday, productive of much fruit. Let not the *fleſh* overcome the *ſpirit*; nor the world drive out of our hearts the deſires which were excited by thy word. Let that Saviour, who hath *been evidently ſet forth before us*, be ſtill preſent to our thoughts. Let us habitually remember his *croſs* and *paſſion*; rejoice in his *reſurrection* and *aſcenſion*; truſt in his mediation, and tread in his *ſteps*. Cauſe us to *grow up into Chriſt in all things*, and to be daily more deeply *rooted in him*. Since we have heard of *things which are eternal*, let us not fix our eyes upon thoſe only which are temporal. Nor let us *labour for the meat which periſheth*, as if there were nothing elſe worthy of our deſires, but may we labour for *that which endureth unto everlaſting life*.

Be with us, All-ſufficient God, while employed in the duties of our reſpective callings. We look to thee for *our daily bread*; we need alſo a daily portion of grace. Vouchſafe us this bleſſing we beſeech thee, that we may neither be *overcharged by the cares of this life*,

nor *enſnared* by its pleaſures, nor *ſink* under its burdens, nor *neglect* its duties. Amidſt all theſe things may we *make ſtraight paths for our feet*, and *in thy ſtrength* walk on ſteadily therein.

Be our Deliverer from every thing that may be a hindrance to our ſalvation. Give us grace to ſacrifice even the *right eye* that may enſnare us. Enable us to lay aſide *every weight*, that we may *run the race that is ſet before us*; and ſtrengthen us, that we may prevail over, *even that ſin which doth moſt eaſily beſet us*.

Thus, O Lord, let *thy word abide in us*, and maintain its influence over our hearts. And thus bleſs not only us, but all who heard thy word yeſterday. Let that grace by which they were favoured with the miniſtry of the Goſpel, be further glorified in beſtowing on them an heart to think ſeriouſly on its great truths, and to pray earneſtly for its ineſtimable bleſſings. And teach us all to ſet a proper value on thy word, and not only hold it in high eſtimation, but honour it likewiſe in our daily practice. May we through life faith-

fully

fully follow its directions. Let us make it our companion in ſolitude, and enjoy it as our ſolace in affliction, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghoſt, be all honour and glory. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Complaining of the improper Influence which the World has upon us.

MOST good and gracious God, thy patience and mercy towards ſinners encourages us to approach thee. Unworthy as we are of the leaſt of thy mercies, thy grace emboldens us to come and aſk for the continuance of that goodneſs we have ſo often experienced.

We cannot look back, O Lord, upon any of our days, without ſeeing great cauſe of

humiliation. Even the beſt of them will ſerve to ſhew, that *to us belongeth ſhame and confuſion of face*. Though we may have been kept from *openly* tranſgreſſing thy laws, yet we ſee that we have *nothing to boaſt of*; for when we enquire, how our hearts have been affected towards God through the day, O how forgetful of thee do we find them to have been!

How long, O Lord, ſhall it continue thus with us, how long ſhall our minds be ſo much engaged by earthly things, and ſo little by ſpiritual things! O thou who art in heaven, look down upon us who are on earth, and draw our thoughts and affections towards thyſelf. Let our hearts be more under the influence of religion. Here we ſee many *walking in a vain ſhadow*, and *diſquieting themſelves in vain*; O Lord, let it not be ſo with us.

Our life is but *a ſojourning here*; enable us *to paſs the time of it in fear* and faith, with circumſpection and with hope. Suffer us not to *ſpend our money for that which is not bread, nor our labour for that which ſatisfieth not*.

not. Let us not *follow after vain things*, nor look for *our reſt* in a changing world; but may we *long to ſee thy goodneſs, O Lord, in the land of the living.* Let heaven be accounted our home, and thither may our deſires be always tending.

We humbly oeſeech thee, in the Name of that Saviour who died for our ſins, to forgive the earthlineſs of our minds; for we conſider it not only as one of the ſad fruits of our depravity, but as an awful ſign, that we have not duly improved by the light which thou haſt afforded us. But it is not only forgiveneſs, but the cure of this evil, which we are now aſking for, O Lord; grant us this mercy alſo, for thy dear Son's ſake,

We pray alſo, that all who *name the name of Chriſt, may depart from iniquity*, and *walk as children of the light and the day.* Pour out the grace of thy Holy Spirit on all true Chriſtians; that *our heavenly Father* may *be glorified* by their labours, patience, zeal, and love. O grant that a cold and lifeleſs profeſſion of religion may not content men. And if it appear in thy houſe, let it not paſs unnoticed,

noticed, nor unreproved, by thoſe whom thou haſt appoined to be *watchmen in* thine *Iſrael.*

And now, O Lord, do thou who haſt been gracious to us this day, continue thy mercies to us through the night. Let *no plague come nigh our dwelling*, nor near the dwelling of any who are dear to us. We commend unto thee all thoſe for whom we ought to pray; beſeeching thee, particularly, to remember the children of affliction. May it pleaſe thee to enable them, O Lord, to lift up their eyes to thee, *from whom* alone *cometh our help*; and from whom cometh not only preſent aſſiſtance, but *everlaſting conſolation, and good hope through grace.*

O gracious Father, pity the children of this world, who know not how to uſe proſperity, nor whither to go for ſound comfort when they are in affliction. Send forth thy word, and cauſe it to enlighten the *dark corners of the earth*; that men may know how to live, and how to die; how to enjoy with ſafety, and ſuffer with reſignation. O let thoſe whom thou haſt bleſſed with this wiſdom, be abundantly thankful for it, and walk in the exerciſe

exercise of it to the end of their days, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Deprecating the Departure of God from us.

O ADORABLE and ever blessed God, without whose help man is not only a feeble, but a miserable creature; look down upon us this morning with thy wonted compassion. We are weak, but thou art Almighty: we deserve to suffer the evils to which we are exposed, but thy mercy is as great as thy power.

Happy is it for us, that though *we have destroyed ourselves, there is help in thee:* Lord, enable us to seek for that help. Let not *pride* make us blind to our wants and weaknesses; nor *despair* prevent our seeing what thy mercy hath provided for us.

O Lord, our miſdeeds teſtify againſt us: but thy word declares that *there is forgiveneſs with thee.* Having heard, that thou art *merciful and gracious,* we caſt ourſelves on thy mercy: *Lord ſave, or we periſh.* Say to every contrite heart, *I am thy ſalvation;* and thy words ſhall be as *life to the dead.* For, O God of all grace, we have no reſource but thy mercy. *To whom could we go, if thou, who* alone *haſt the words of eternal life,* ſhouldeſt forbid us to approach thy throne?

Thou mighteſt indeed ſay to us, *Depart from me;* for we have, in our hearts, ſpoken thus to thee. But do not *deal with us according to our ſins,* for if thou doſt, *there is no hope* for us. *O caſt us not, therefore, away from thy preſence.* Suffer us to draw near to thee, for we come to thee in the name of thy dear Son, who died for our ſins. Hear, O Father of mercies, the ſinner's advocate in our behalf, that we may be *accepted* and bleſſed *in thy beloved* Son.

O Lord, it is not merely to be ſaved from puniſhment, that we appear before thee; we beg not only that *thine anger may be turned away*

away from us, but that we may be delivered from all diſaffection of heart to thy will, and thy ways.

Remember that antient promiſe of thine, and fulfil it to us, *I will take away the heart of ſtone, and give you an heart of fleſh. O be it unto us according to* this *thy word.* Take away from us all that is ſtupid, all that is dark, and all that is hardened; and give unto us that wiſe and holy fear, which thou haſt implanted in the hearts of thy children. And may this gracious principle be daily acquiring ſtrength; that we may live in holineſs, humility, and peace, under all our infirmities, and amidſt all the temptations with which we are ſurrounded.

O Lord, look upon all this houſe. Unite our hearts to thee, and to one another. Make us to love thee above all, and may we love one another, for Chriſt's ſake.

O be our defender this day. *All things are naked and open to thee.* Thou ſeeſt the ſnares that are ſet for our feet; thou knoweſt where, and when, and how, Satan will ſeek

to

to *get an advantage over us;* thou ſeeſt the temptations that we do not ſee, and thou knoweſt all our weakneſs; *O ſend us help from thy holy place. Leave us not, neither forſake us, O God of our ſalvation,* but be thou, all through the day, our *ſtrength and our ſhield.*

And grant, O Lord, not only that we may be *kept from falling,* but that we may go forward in *the path of thy commandments.* Give new vigour to our beſt deſires. *Renew our ſtrength,* that we may *preſs forward;* that we may proceed *from ſtrength to ſtrength;* and become daily more meet to ſit down in thy kingdom.

Thus do thou bleſs *all who call upon thy Name.* Let not the *children of light be leſs wiſe in their generation than the children of this world.* Let the diſciples of our Lord exerciſe ſuch an earneſtneſs in the things of religion, as becomes the grandeur and glory of that great prize, which thou haſt ſet before them. Lord, give this wiſdom to all thoſe who have it not, and increaſe it in all thoſe who have received it; that however it may

be

be with us as to the *outward man*, our better part may, amidſt all changes, ſtill *proſper and be in health*, through the continued grace of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; who taught us, when we pray, to uſe theſe words;

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

A general Prayer.

O GOD our Creator and Preſerver, whoſe goodneſs is as great as thy power; graciouſly accept the worſhip of a family, which thou haſt this day preſerved from many evils, and bleſſed with many comforts.

May we be always ready to perform this *reaſonable ſervice*. Suffer us not to forget, O Lord, that while we are ſupported by the ſame hand which provides food for all the inferior creatures, thou haſt honoured us above them;

them; it is our privilege, to ſee the Creator in the adminiſtration of his *providence over all things*, and in the beſtowment of our daily comforts. O let us take delight in employing our faculties to the honour of thy name.

We would acknowledge, moſt good and gracious God, our dependance on thee. We would thankfully declare our daily obligations to love and to ſerve thee. And we intreat thee to accept our praiſes, imperfect as they are, for the bleſſings of which we have this day been partakers.

But, O great God, our neceſſities lead us to preſent ourſelves before thee this evening; for we know of no *effectual* ſecurity but in the care of divine Providence. *Except thou keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain.*

To thee, therefore, moſt merciful God, we come for protection this night. To thee muſt we look for our preſervation; for after we have done all that we can for our ſecurity, there will remain many evils to which we ſhall be

expoſed,

expoſed, and from which thou alone canſt preſerve us.

O bleſſed Lord, how helpleſs a creature is man without thee; and how fooliſh a creature is he, when he does not endeavour to live in peace with thee! Enable us therefore to make it our firſt concern to obtain thy favour: May we ſeek it as the greateſt of bleſſings; and may we ſeek it in *that way* in which it is to be found. Teach us ſeriouſly to regard thoſe expreſs declarations of thy word, which aſſure us, that the hopes of ſinful creatures muſt be founded on the mediation of thy bleſſed Son. Preſerve us, O Lord, not only from diſregarding this important truth, but alſo from miſunderſtanding the uſe to which it ſhould be applied.

And that we may not fall into theſe, or any other hurtful errors, incline us diligently to ſeek after that inſtruction of which we ſtand in need. As creatures who are paſſing out of time into eternity, may we ſet a juſt value on religious knowledge, and ſeriouſly conſider, that the preſent life is the ſeaſon of obtaining it. O continue this ſeaſon to us yet a little

longer; and let us not depart hence, till we have diſcovered *the good and the right way*, which leads to peace and to heaven.

O thou from whom all good muſt come, give thy bleſſing to the inſtruction we receive, that we may embrace and hold faſt the truth. And enable us to act ſuitably to the degree of religious knowledge to which we may attain; let us not *follow that which is evil*, after thou haſt ſhewn to us *that which is good:* but may we walk in that path which thou pointeſt out to us, and continue in it unto the end. So ſhall our lives be holy and happy; for thou our merciful God wilt be with us, to direct us, to ſuccour us, and to bleſs us, both here and hereafter, through Jeſus Chriſt our only Mediator; who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For true Religion as a governing Principle.

O MERCIFUL God, the gracious author of our being, and the ſource of all that renders it comfortable, we aſſembe this morning to acknowledge thy care over us during the laſt night, and to requeſt thy bleſſing upon us for the day.

O Lord, what is there that we poſſeſs, which we have not derived from thy bounty? Our health, our reaſon, our friends, our ſocial and domeſtic comforts, our capacities, are all thy gifts. If we have any advantages above others, it is from thee, that we received them.

Teach us, O Lord, devoutly to conſider *what we owe* to Thee, for theſe gifts. We are ready enough to look for returns of duty and gratitude from thoſe whom we have obliged: But O how apt are we to fall into a

ſtupid unmindfulneſs of our divine Benefactor. How often do we fail of rendering what is due to him for the bleſſings we receive.

O how inexcuſable is this forgetfulneſs! Shall we be ſurrounded with thy works, and be unmindful of Thee! Shall we be continually receiving benefits, and yet blind to the very hand which beſtows them? O Lord, be ſuch inſenſibility far from us; may we ſee thine excellency, be thankful for thy goodneſs, and devoutly *regard* all *the operations of thy hand.*

And may a ſenſe of thy greatneſs and goodneſs kindle in us, an earneſt deſire to know Thee more, and to be better informed how we may do honour to thy holy name.

O Thou who art the fountain of all wiſdom, and who canſt and wilt impart it to thoſe who ſincerely ſeek for it, we beſeech to be our inſtructor; for there is no teaching like thine. And do thou not only teach us what we ought to know, concerning thyſelf, but ſhew us what we are, and what we ought to be; that

that we may ſee our true character, and learn to approach Thee with the *penitence* and the *humility*, which become offending creatures. May we be thoroughly convinced of the neceſſity there is for making thy mercy our only dependence; and may we look for it, *through that appointed Mediator*, to whom thy holy ſcriptures direct the eyes of ſinful men, as their advocate with God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to walk *according to the rule of thy word*, in all things. May we of this houſe be enabled this day to ſhew, that thy holy ſcriptures are not read here in vain. We humbly pray, that we may honour thy holy Word by a practical regard to it;—by reverencing thine authority, by relying on thy grace, and by living in the ſpirit of kindneſs towards one another.

May we all, in our reſpective places, act as in thy ſight; ſo ſhall thy bleſſing reſt upon this family: here *mercy and truth will* then *meet together*, and *righteouſneſs and peace embrace each other*.

We humbly intreat thee, to keep us this day from all evil. Keep likewiſe, O Lord, all thoſe, who are near and dear to us. Viſit in thy great mercy all thoſe, who are troubled in mind, body, or eſtate; and grant that their *hearts may be opened* to receive the reproofs and inſtructions of thy word, that while they are ſtooping under the burden of affliction, they may feel the comforts of religion. Remember all others for whom we ought to pray, and grant theſe our requeſts, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, in whoſe name and words we further addreſs thee;

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Peace with God.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, thou art the ſource of all true happineſs: And if *our ſins did not withhold good things from us*, We

we ſhould be continually deriving pleaſure, peace, and joy, from thy fullneſs. But we *forſake Thee, the fountain of living waters*; we tranſgreſs thy commandments; and then, doubts and fears take poſſeſſion of our ſouls, and peace flies from our hearts.

Yet, O moſt good and gracious God, thy mercy furniſhes ſinful man with the means of reconciliation with thee: may we ſeek for this ineſtimable bleſſing in that way, in which thou haſt ordained that it ſhall be found!

We adore Thee for thy compaſſion in ſending thy dear Son into the world, to deliver us from that ſtate of guilt and condemnation, into which we have fallen. We were not able to repair the breach which ſin had made between Thee, and us; but *Thou haſt laid help upon one*, who was able to *make reconciliation for our iniquities*, and thereby to reſtore a friendly communication between God and man.

To this bleſſed Reconciler, help us to come, deeply repenting of all our offences; that we

may obtain *remiſſion of our ſins through his blood*. Enable us to come to him, reſting upon thy word of promiſe, which declares, that *whoſoever believeth on him ſhall not periſh*. On thy word of promiſe, and on that alone, may we found all our hopes of obtaining acceptance with Thee. And may we honour thy merciful declarations by a full confidence in them; believing that thou art not only able to ſave, but willing alſo to receive us into thy favour; infinitely as it is above our deſerts to be ſo treated by our offended Creator.

And grant, O Lord, that it may be more and more evident, that our reliance on thy word is no vain preſumption, but that true and *living faith*, which is wrought in the heart by thy Holy Spirit. May we make it manifeſt that our faith is of this kind, by increaſing in love to God, in hatred of all ſin, and by the faithful performance of every duty, which we owe to one another.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to grow remiſs in theſe things; for if we do, we cannot expect to enjoy thy conſolations. And if we go back in the path of holineſs, let our peace be interrupted;

rupted; that the *rod with which our offences are viſited*, may bring us back to Thee.

If any of us are now *ſaying peace to ourſelves* when there is no ground for peace, O put an end to the deluſion. Let there not be *joy and gladneſs, when the Lord* GOD *of Hoſts calls to weeping and mourning:* Rather let us go ſorrowing all our days, with a tender conſcience, than be buoyed up with the unwarranted joys of careleſs and preſumptuous ſouls.

O may the uprightneſs of our hearts be manifeſt, by our being more concerned for thy honour, than for our own enjoyments. May we have the glory of thy name more at heart the longer we live; ſo will our peace, bleſſed GOD! *increaſe like a river*; and while we are diligently attentive to the duties of thy children, thou wilt preſerve to us the enjoyment of their bleſſed privileges.

Everlaſting thanks be rendered to thee, O Lord, for thy holy word, which ſheweth us the cauſe of our miſeries, and the ſource of real happineſs. We rejoice that it is preached among us; O give effect to it, that the eyes of

of men may be enlightened, and that their hearts may rejoice in *juſt* views of God, and eternal things.

Let not thine awful denunciations againſt ſin be diſregarded, but may they awaken many to ſerious conſideration of their danger. And when a ſinner is alarmed about his ſoul, we pray thee, that his diſtreſſed mind may not be quieted by any deluſive views. Let not *his wound be ſlightly healed*, but let his cure be ſound. May the peace which we obtain be *the peace of* GOD;—the peace which is founded on thy word, and which none can enjoy but thoſe, who *turn to thee with their whole heart*.

And that we may be preſerved both from unreaſonable fears, and preſumptuous hopes, give us grace to *meditate in thy law, day and night*, and to *pray without ceaſing*, that every truth of thy word may effectually influence our hearts and lives; that being well grounded in *the truth as it is in Jeſus*, and *walking in thy fear* from day to day, we may feel a holy and ſubſtantial joy increaſing in us, as we draw nearer and nearer to the end of our courſe.

Forgive

Forgive, O merciful God, all the ſins of this day, accept our thanks for all our bleſſings, and continue thine undeſerved goodneſs to us this night, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Mediator and Advocate; inſtructed by whom we thus conclude our humble requeſts;

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

For Grace to be followers of thoſe, who through Faith and Patience have entered into eternal Reſt.

O THOU ever bleſſed GOD, who art *righteous in all thy ways, and holy in all thy works*, teach us under all circumſtances to honour thy Providence and Grace. *When we are full let us not forget the Lord our* GOD. When our *heart is overwhelmed*, lead us to Thyſelf, *the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.*

Thou

Thou knoweſt how to make our greateſt ſufferings beneficial to us. Thou knoweſt how to make *poverty* a bleſſing; thou canſt give us reaſon to be thankful for pains and ſickneſs; and from death, thou art able to take away all that is dreadful. How many of thy ſervants, O Lord, haſt thou made to *triumph over this laſt enemy!* Thou haſt accompanied thy people in the dark valley, and enabled them to paſs through it, *fearing no evil.* O praiſed be the name of our God, who taketh away *the ſting of death*, and giveth to his dying ſervants *a victory through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

Whenever we hear of theſe things, (and eſpecially when we ourſelves are witneſſes of them) let us not fail to learn the important leſſons in which they inſtruct us. Thou teacheſt us hereby, the value of a *good hope through grace;* we learn what a *refuge thou art in the day of trouble*, and how bleſſed a thing it is, to have the *God of Jacob for our help.* And ſhall we ſee this, without reflection and prayer? O Lord, whenever we ſee, or hear of, a dying ſaint *rejoicing in thy ſalvation,*

ſalvation, let our ſouls ſay, *bleſs me, even me alſo, O my Father.*

And whenever thou art pleaſed to call thoſe hence, who are dear to us, give us grace to ſurrender them up to Thee, in a right ſpirit. Let not our grief for the loſs of even the *excellent of the earth*, exceed its due bounds. Enable us to give thee thanks for not having taken them away from us ſooner. Inſtead of employing our thoughts on the loſs of their company, let us employ them on the examples which they have left us. Let us remember, how they ſhewed us the *way of peace*. Let us remember how thou didſt ſtrengthen them to reſiſt the influence of general wickedneſs. Let us not forget the *patience* thou gaveſt them in *ſuffering*, and the *compoſure* with which they were bleſſed in *death*. And by the recollection of theſe things, may we be encouraged and excited to pray for *that grace, which made them what they were.*

O gather our ſouls with thoſe, *whom thou haſt ſet apart for thyſelf*. Shed upon us that light, with which thou haſt bleſſed them. Renew our ſouls, as thou haſt renewed theirs. Give us that *repentance towards* GOD, that

faith

faith in our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and that *love to* God *and man*, which thou haſt wrought in their hearts; that we walking as they walked, may find God with us, as he has ever been with his ſervants, a *light*, a *glory*, and a *defence*.

Look, O Lord, upon all in this houſe, and ſuffer not the eyes of any one to be dazzled with the falſe glory of this periſhable world. Look, eſpecially, on the younger branches of this family, and let not their inexperienced minds be led away by the deceitful appearances of preſent things. Give them grace to *ſeek thee early, that they may be glad and rejoice all their days*. O that *from this time, they may* each one *cry unto thee, My Father! thou art the guide of my youth*.

Teach us, O Lord, by every inſtance of human mortality, to *ceaſe from man*, and to fix our dependance on Him, who ſayeth to his Church, *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*. What though our tender parents die; what though the *friend who is as our own ſoul*, or the Paſtor by whoſe care and labours we were edified, be taken from us;

Jeſus

Jeſus ever liveth: And he *ever liveth to make interceſſion for us.* O that every ſtroke which ſeparates the creature from us, may ſerve to unite us more cloſely to the Creator: On him may we live. To whom ſhall the widow, or the orphan look, but to Him, who is *the ſame yeſterday, to day, and for ever;* and who is able to *make all things work together for good.*

Gracious Lord, let us not *look* only *on the things which are temporal; but on thoſe* alſo *which are eternal:* and let the things of eternity have more influence on us. On all occaſions may we remember, that *the time is ſhort,* and that it becomes us to *weep, as though we wept not; and* to *rejoice, as though we rejoiced not.* Let not our hearts be improperly affected, nor our attention be called off from the great buſineſs of life, by any of the events of the preſent ſtate. May we daily remember that our Lord is coming; and like faithful, diligent, and happy ſervants, may we *gird up the loins of our mind, be ſober, and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jeſus Chriſt.* Amen.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for Growth in Grace.

HELP us to draw near to thee, O thou *ſearcher of the heart, with reverence and godly fear.* Though we are permitted to approach thy Throne, let us not forget how utterly unworthy we are of this favour; and when we addreſs ourſelves to thee, let us not only ſpeak the penitent ſinner's language, but feel likewiſe his contrite heart.

How ought we to *bluſh and be aſhamed to lift up our faces unto thee,* O moſt holy God! Day after day brings ſome new proof of thy goodneſs, and lays upon us ſome new obligation to *love and ſerve thee;* but we ſtill remain poor ſinful creatures, producing but few and feeble ſigns of our having any *zeal for thy glory,* or any *love to thy name.*

O thou good phyſician of the ſoul, look upon our diſordered nature. Canſt not thou

ſtrengthen that which is weak, and *heal* that which is diſeaſed? Art not thou able to make us *live more to God, and leſs to ourſelves?* We believe, O Lord, that *all power is in thine hands*, yea that thou haſt *power over all hearts*, and that thou art willing as well as able, to *fill us with all ſpiritual bleſſings.* But we fail in ſeeking to thee for theſe things. We know we ſtand in need of them, but we have too little of that *hungering and thirſting after* them, which thou haſt promiſed to ſatisfy.

O ſtir up our languid deſires. Let us not be ſlothful in religion, but *fervent in ſpirit, ſerving the Lord.* Let us not forget *how much* we have to do, and *how little* there may be left of life. Suffer none of us to *ſhorten* the time which thou haſt given to us for the work of ſalvation, by making it *late* ere we begin; and when we begin, O may we *preſs forward* with increaſing ardour, towards the *mark of the prize of our high calling.*

How apt are we to reſt in preſent attainments, but alas! what are they? How much more is there to be attained, than we have yet reached! Even in knowledge, we might

have made greater improvement; and how far ſhort do we come of what we ought to be in other things. How much is there yet wanting in us! How much is there yet to ſubdue, to bring down, and to caſt out! Lord, ſhew us where we ſtand, and let us be filled with ſhame at perceiving, how little progreſs we have made in the *path of thy commandments*.

And may it affect us with a *godly ſorrow*, that we ſo little *adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour*. O Lord, we pray that the honour of religion may be dearer to us than our own honour, and that we may long to bear a better teſtimony in its behalf than we have ever yet done. Make us more *alive towards God*, that we may be more active in our duty. Pour freſh oil into the lamp, that *our light may ſhine* clearer *before men, and our heavenly Father be more glorified*.

Guard us, O almighty defender, from the influence of every thing which may bring on any *indifference of heart* towards thee. May we be preſerved from all *principles* which would lay us aſleep. Keep us from all ſuch *employ-*

ments as may beget coldneſs and deadneſs towards God. Let us not be led into *cuſtoms*, or into *connections*, which may deprive us of that *ſimplicity* and earneſtneſs, with which a Chriſtian ſhould follow his Lord and Saviour.

Bleſſed be thy name for all the enjoyments of this day. To thee, gracious Lord, we look for preſervation this night. Pardon, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, all our ſins, and work in our hearts a true repentance of every unholy thought, word, and action. May all who are near and dear to us, lie down on their beds with theſe deſires. We commend not only our kindred, but all the children of men to thee, O God of grace; praying, that *thy ways may be known upon earth, and thy ſalvation unto all nations.*

Hear us, we beſeech thee, moſt merciful Lord, in theſe our humble requeſts, which we conclude in the words with which thy dear Son taught us to draw near to thee;

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

That we may improve by what we are taught in the Sufferings of Chriſt.

HOW unſearchable are thy judgments, O Lord, and thy ways paſt finding out! Something we know of thee; but it is becauſe thou haſt revealed thyſelf to man. Thou haſt beheld his ignorance, and in compaſſion to his ſoul, thou haſt inſtructed him; that he might ſavingly know that God *with whom he hath to do.*

Yet who can comprehend all thy ways? Nor are thy ways of mercy the leaſt of thoſe wonders, we ought devoutly to admire! O *what is man that thou ſhouldeſt be mindful of him!* Seeing we forſook the *covenant of our God*, and *like ſheep have gone aſtray* from thee, why were we not left to be *filled with our own* wretched *devices?*

O Lord, we have no words that will ſufficiently expreſs the greatneſs of that mercy, which

which cauſed thee to *give up thine only begotten Son* for our redemption. But though our feeble tongues can never ſet forth *all thy praiſe*, yet let our minds be ſo affected with *the riches of thy grace*, that our hearts may adore thee, though our lips cannot utter the half, nor the thouſandth part of thy goodneſs.

O thou who didſt give thy dear Son to die for our ſalvation, grant that we may exerciſe towards him, all thoſe tempers which we ought to feel. Let the name of that Friend, who was *wounded for our tranſgreſſions, and bruiſed for our iniquities*, be deeply engraven on our minds. *Set it*, O God, as *a ſeal upon our hearts*, that whatever elſe we forget, we may ever remember *the great love wherewith he loved us*.

And now, O Lord, ſince thou haſt opened *a door of hope* to ſinners, through the ſufferings and death of thy dear Son, enable us by faith to enter it. And while we thankfully embrace thy mercy, let our ſouls be deeply impreſſed with thy holy diſpleaſure againſt ſin, which we are taught by the ſacrifice of Chriſt. Did he *ſuffer for ſin*, and

ſhall we think lightly of it? Far be it from us! O let us not dare to repeat thoſe *offences for which* our Saviour *was delivered up to* death.

Grant, O Lord, that we may learn every leſſon, which we are taught by the ſufferings of our Redeemer. May the *world be crucified to us, and we to the world*, by the croſs of Chriſt. Let us turn aſide from every vain object, to *ſee this great ſight;* and may the contemplation of a Saviour offering himſelf up for our redemption, *leave in us no more ſpirit* for the ſhadows we are apt to purſue.

Incline our hearts, O Lord, to practiſe that love to our neighbour, which we are taught at the foot of the croſs. Since the *good ſhepherd* hath *laid down his life for the ſheep*, never more may we *ſhut up our bowels of compaſſion againſt our brother.* Let thine holy ſpirit implant in us *that mind that was in Chriſt, who, though he was rich, yet for our ſakes became poor.*

And ſince thou haſt not *withheld thine only Son from us*, let us not refuſe to ſurrender any

any thing, which thou mayeſt call us to reſign.

Let us learn, by the meek example of a ſuffering maſter, to ſuffer with patience, whenever we have to taſte of the cup of affliction. Let the remembrance of our ſins, and our Saviour, ſilence all complaints; and may we be principally concerned to ſhew, how he who patiently bore his own croſs, hath taught us to carry ours.

And we pray, that not only we, but that others alſo may look to a crucified Saviour for eternal life. Since our Lord hath been *lifted up*, may *all men be drawn to him.* Let his goſpel be publiſhed in every nation, that there may be great joy in every part of the world. *Give him*, O Father, *the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermoſt parts of the earth for his poſſeſſion.*

And may that blood which was *ſhed for the remiſſion of ſins*, plead for the pardon of thoſe crimes with which the chriſtian name has been diſgraced. Forgive the ſins by which the religion of a holy and benevolent Saviour,

hath been misrepresented to heathen nations. Grant that we may not have to answer for causing *the way of truth to be evil spoken of!* And to this end let us not only hold forth the *form* of godliness, but be always seeking after its *power*.

Teach us to live, this day, in the comforting and sanctifying hope of seeing that friend who came down on earth to save us. O let the glorious hour come, when we shall behold the head, which was once pierced with thorns, adorned with *many crowns!* Let us be growing in a meetness for so blessed a state this, and every day, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Thanking God *for Hope.*

BLESSED God, *how great is thy goodneſs!* How wonderful is thy condeſcenſion, in directing us to *call upon thy name*, and permitting us to *caſt our burdens upon the Lord!* Many of our burdens are ſuch as we have brought upon ourſelves through our ſinfulneſs, and we deſerve to feel the whole weight of them; yet ſuch is thy compaſſion, that thou offereſt ſupport to us, and ſuſtaineſt us when we are fainting.

O how *bleſſed are they who have thee for their help!* Grant that every one of this family may know what that bleſſedneſs is. For ere long, O God, we ſhall all be ſenſible that there is nothing truly deſirable but *the good of thy choſen.* In a little time all the objects of carnal deſire will vaniſh. Wealth, and pleaſure, and art, and ſcience, will be no more; and they who live and die *without*

God *in the world* will fall with them. But *the godly man thou haſt ſet apart for thyſelf.* Thou haſt *formed thy people for thyſelf*, and to all eternity *they ſhall ſhew forth thy praiſe:* O let us have *our portion* with them!

But how ſhall we obtain a part in the inheritance of thy ſaints, for *we have all ſinned and come ſhort of the glory of God?* Behold us in mercy, and raiſe us out of that ſtate into which we have plunged ourſelves. We have been *tranſgreſſors from the womb*, and it is to be feared we ſhall go ſuch to the grave; but but O let us not go hence till we have felt that godly ſorrow, which a ſinner ought to feel, that we turning *to the Lord with all our heart*, may have a good ground of hope, and reaſon to *glory in Thee*, though we have ſo much reaſon to condemn ourſelves.

We would bleſs thee, O Lord, for the preſent ſupports, as well as the future proſpects, of a *good hope through grace.* Thou art God *all-ſufficient*; and they who *love thy name* may rejoice therein, in the darkeſt times, and in the greateſt difficulties. Let that be our happy caſe. Enable us to give ourſelves to Thee;

Thee; and do thou *fill us with all joy and peace in believing*. *May we* ſo *abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghoſt*, that when all outward things appear to be *againſt us*, we may *encourage ourſelves in the Lord our* GOD. And if a *day of* trying *viſitation* come, may we *glorify* thee in it: Let it be ſeen that there is a *light* that reaches us in this dark world—that we have a *refuge* to flee to—and a *ſupport* to lean upon.

Both in proſperity and adverſity, may we ſhew what it is, to *have paſſed from death unto life*. May we commend thy good ways to men, not by words only, but *by pureneſs, by knowledge, by the Holy Ghoſt, by love unfeigned, by the armour of righteouſneſs on the right hand and on the left*. May theſe things *be in us and abound*; that many ſeeing what *thou haſt done for us*, may *ſay, we will go with you, for* GOD *is with you*.

We lament that we have made it ſo little the buſineſs of this day, yea of any day of our lives, to *glorify the name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt*. O quicken us, and all, who profeſs themſelves diſciples of Chriſt, to greater dili-

gence

gence in our holy calling. Let our future diligence be increaſed, by the penitent recollection of paſt negligence.

O leave us not to ourſelves, leſt we fall again into the very things of which we accuſe ourſelves. Be continually preſent with us, enabling us to act as thoſe who have *obtained mercy*—as thoſe who have been called to behold a Saviour who wept that we might rejoice, and who died that we might live. O may thy Holy Spirit *ſhed abroad in our hearts* an unfeigned *love* to Chriſt, that *we may live* more *to him, who lived and died for us.*

With many thanks for the mercies of this day, we commend ourſelves, our dear relations, and all our neighbours, to thy protection this night: praying thee to look down in an eſpecial manner upon the afflicted. We intreat Thee to hear, to anſwer, and to forgive, for the ſake of that bleſſed Advocate, whoſe mediation encourages us to look upward, and offer the prayer which he taught us to uſe;

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for Children.

O LORD GOD, who *appointeſt unto us the bounds of our habitation*, and through whoſe mercy *there remaineth a reſt for thy people*; be graciouſly pleaſed to enable us ſo to fill up the ſtation which thou haſt allotted to us, that when we are called out of this world, we may enter into *everlaſting habitations* of peace and joy.

It is thine appointment, O Lord, that the way to heaven ſhould be through this world, in which there are *paths which lead to deſtruction*; and the *adverſary* of our ſouls, walking about *like a lion ſeeking his prey*.

But how ſhall creatures ſo weak, ſo depraved, eſcape the dangers to which we are expoſed in ſuch a world as this? O that thou wouldeſt condeſcend to be our *Guide*, and our *Protector!*

Look

Look down in mercy, O Lord, upon all thoſe, who do not feel the great neceſſity of making this requeſt unto thee. We particularly commend our tender offspring to thy grace. *O that they may live before thee!* Take away from them that *fooliſhneſs, which is bound in the heart of a child*, and give them that *wiſdom, which is profitable to direct* them in this enſnaring and perilous ſtate.

And to thoſe, on whom thou haſt beſtowed children, be graciouſly pleaſed to afford both *knowledge* and *grace*, for bringing up their offspring in the *nurture and admonition of the Lord.* In educating them, may we ſeriouſly conſider the nature of that world into which they are born; and may it be our *firſt* concern, the care that is always neareſt our hearts, to guard them from the *evils of that ſtate*, into which we have been the means of bringing them. O Lord we would lead them to Thee; we would intreat thee to take them into thy hands, that they may keep the *path of the juſt* while they are here, and that they may *ſit down with thee in thy kingdom* hereafter.

Crown,

Crown, O Lord, our endeavours with thy bleſſing. Suffer not thoſe, whoſe welfare we ſeek, to miſunderſtand us. Let them not look upon us as *their enemies becauſe we tell them the truth.* Give to our children a teachable diſpoſition, that they may not loſe the benefit of inſtruction, through obſtinacy, raſhneſs, or vanity. While we are pointing out to them the path of peace, do thou open their eyes, O Lord, that they may ſee it, and do thou incline their hearts to walk therein.

And we humbly pray that *a full reward may be given to us:* let none of them be content to be one among the many who have the *form of godlineſs without the power*, but may we have cauſe to rejoice over them, as thoſe *who cleave to the Lord with full purpoſe of heart.*

Let thy preſence, moſt bleſſed God, accompany them all through life. Though new ſituations ſhould produce new and greater temptations, yet all will be well, if *Thou art with them.* O guide them in all the ſteps which they take in matters relating to this

this life; and ſuffer them to enter into no connections which may be injurious to them either in temporal or ſpiritual things. *In all their ways teach them to acknowledge thee, and thou wilt direct their paths.*

We do not *aſk great things* for them. We only pray, that in that way which ſeemeth good unto thee, they may have the honour of being uſeful to others. Should any of them proſper in temporal things, let them rejoice in their ſucceſs, principally, on account of its putting *more power into their hands to do good.*

And whether they be high or low in the world, let the intereſts of thy church be ever dear to them; and, may they count it an honour to do any thing, by which thoſe intereſts may be promoted. O Lord ſuffer them not to leave the place which thou haſt allotted to them, but in that place and ſtation may they live to thy glory, and ſeek the good of their fellow creatures. And if they have it not in their power to do any thing more towards theſe ends, than to hand down the knowledge of thy goſpel to poſterity, by inſtructing their own children, may they ſee that this is a great

and

and good work, and attend to it with diligence and delight. May they *talk of thy wonderful works to their children when they ſit in the houſe, when they walk by the way, when they lie down, and when they riſe up; that the generations to come may know them*, and thy praiſe be perpetuated to the laſt age of the world.

We do not aſk, that they may be exempted from all trial, for we know not but it may be good for them to taſte the cup of affliction; but we requeſt, that if they are tried, their afflictions may *bring forth in them the peaceable fruits of righteouſneſs.*

O Lord, whatever be their ſituation *in* the world, grant that they may walk as *ſtrangers and pilgrims on earth.* Never may they be *aſhamed of Chriſt or his words.* May love to God, faith in Chriſt, and thankful remembrance of what he did for men, increaſe in them every day. As they approach the *end of their courſe*, may they feel in their hearts an increaſing longing to be *with their Saviour, that they may behold his glory.* And when the hour of ſeparation comes, do thou

be with them; that they may make an honourable and comfortable end *.

O *let there be a generation to ſerve thee*, and may all of this houſe be of that number, and walk this day as thoſe who are of thy family. All which we aſk in the name of thy dear Son our Lord; who taught us thus to pray,

Our Father, &c.

* *The following addition, for children who are going from home to be educated, may be introduced here.*

We commend our dear children, who are going to ſchool to-day, to thy gracious care, O Lord. We intreat thee to preſerve both their bodies and their minds from evil. And may they be fitted, under the inſtructors who are placed over them, to live a life that ſhall be uſeful to others, and comfortable to themſelves.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for Health.

BLESSED be the Lord God, who *forgiveth our iniquities, who healeth all our diſeaſes, and crowneth us with loving-kindneſs and tender mercies.* Hitherto, O thou gracious *preſerver of men*, thou *haſt helped us.* We would look back on the paſt week with thankfulneſs, and end it with *ſpeaking good of thy name.*

We are not only *wonderfully made*, but wonderfully preſerved. The health of our bodies calls for great thankfulneſs; and to whom ſhall we offer it, but to him, *in whom we live, and move, and have our being?* And O that we may make a good uſe of that health, with which we are bleſſed. Let all our faculties, both of body and mind, be employed as *inſtruments of righteouſneſs*; that with all our powers we may glorify thy name.

O Lord, grant that every one in this family, who has paſſed the week in good health, may make this his earneſt prayer to thee. And to thoſe whoſe health has been interrupted, and thoſe who feel themſelves liable to ſickneſs, give thy heavenly grace, that what they feel or fear, may have a good effect on their ſouls.

Teach us, when we feel our infirmities, to receive inſtruction from them. May we be reminded by them, that *there is an appointed time to man upon earth, and that his days are the days of an hireling*. O may they lead us to enquire, whether the hireling be about the buſineſs to which the maſter hath appointed him, and may they ſtir us up *to do whatſoever our hand findeth to do, with all our might*.

O Lord, *man dieth and waſteth away; yea man giveth up the ghoſt, and where is he?* Thy Word, O God, hath revealed to us where the godly man will be found: *Them that ſleep in Jeſus, will God bring with him, and they ſhall ever be with the Lord.* Does there *remain then a reſt for thy people?* O let every thing which makes us feel *how frail we are*,

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cauſe us to turn our eyes to that heavenly Canaan, which thou haſt provided for thy children, and to that bleſſed Saviour, who conducts them thither.

We bleſs thee, that we have heard of that better world, and of that *way* to it, which thou haſt in mercy opened for us. We would give thee thanks alſo for *lengthening out our days*; for thereby we have time ſufficient to attend to the *things which relate to our* future *peace*. O that we may make this uſe of our lengthened life, that the longer we live, the more we may be fit to die! Pardon, O good Lord, every one in this houſe, who hath this week ſuffered time to be totally loſt, or uſeleſly applied. Let our paſſing hours ſerve to *quicken our ſouls*, by reminding us, that the *end of all things is at hand*. Impreſſed with this thought, may we *be ſober and watch unto prayer*; and may we ſo *long for thy ſalvation*, as to be daily *looking for and haſting unto the coming of the day of God*. O preſerve us from the ſin and folly of thoſe, who miſerably cleave to this world, the nearer they draw to the hour of their ſeparation from it. Let us be waiting with joy for the

coming of our Lord, with *our loins girt, and lights burning.*

Bleſſed be thy name, not only for our health, but for all the bleſſings which thy hand hath beſtowed. How great is thy mercy! who can recount all that it does for us! It finds us a habitation to dwell in; it finds us a bed to reſt on; it ſpreads our table; it cloaths our bodies; it heals our ſickneſs; it binds up the heart when broken; ſupports the mind when burdened; and chears the ſpirit when ſorrowful.—Yea, it pardons our ſins; it *blots out our iniquities*; it ſnatches us as *brands from the fire*; and carries us from earth to heaven. O how many, and how great things have we to praiſe thee for, moſt gracious Lord!

We would look forward with thankfulneſs to the approaching ſabbath. We would reckon it among our greateſt mercies, that we have means of grace afforded us, and days of holy reſt to attend on them. Preſerve us, O Lord, this night, and bring us to ſee another of theſe days. May we enter on it with joy, and attend the means of grace with a mind

a mind earneſtly deſirous of obtaining all the benefits, for which they were in mercy ordained. Enable us to *worſhip thee in the beauty of holineſs*, and to *receive with all readineſs* whatſoever thy word ſhall declare unto us.

O *what are we, and what are our father's houſes*, that the bleſſed God ſhould look upon ſuch unworthy creatures as we are! We *are not worthy of the leaſt of thy mercies*, and yet thou holdeſt out thy choiceſt bleſſings to us! Accept, O Lord, the praiſe which is due to thee for all we have, and all we hope for, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; from whoſe inſtruction we have learned thus to pray unto thee;

Our Father, &c.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Succeſs of the Goſpel.

MOST holy Lord, of whoſe goodneſs and mercy we are continually partaking, accept our humble thankſgivings for the preſervation thou didſt afford us during the laſt night, and for granting us the light of another ſabbath. May we rejoice in the return of this holy day, and endeavour to profit by all the opportunities, which thy mercy affords us, of becoming *wiſe unto ſalvation*.

O Lord we are encouraged to lift up our eyes unto thee, by that *great love* which thou haſt manifeſted, in *giving thine only begotten Son for us*. We are ſupported by that pledge of a bleſſed immortality, which thou haſt given to us, in raiſing him from the dead.

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And therefore, though we live in a ſinful and miſerable world, we begin this day with holy joy. *Bleſſed be the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us to a lively hope, by the reſurrection of Jeſus Chriſt from the dead.*

Be pleaſed, O Lord, to grant, that we may feel in our ſouls *the working of that mighty power, which was wrought in Chriſt, when he was raiſed from the dead.* May we be " raiſed from a death in ſin, unto a life of " righteouſneſs."

We pray, O Lord, that *Chriſt may be glorified* this day, in the ſucceſs of his holy word. Strengthen thoſe, who are to publiſh thy goſpel, that they may give their *teſtimony with great power; may great grace be upon them, and upon all their hearers.* Grant that many may be enlightened by the word of truth, and enabled, by thy grace, to withdraw *their affections from* the deceiving *things that are on earth,* and *ſet* them on thoſe bleſſed *things that are above.*

In

In imitation of the firſt followers of Chriſt, we aſſemble for public worſhip on that day of the week on which our Saviour roſe. May our meeting together be bleſſed with that *power of the Holy Ghoſt*, which gave life to the firſt chriſtian aſſemblies. O let thoſe bleſſed times return, when, *the ſpirit being poured out from on high, the wilderneſs became a fruitful field. Thine arm is not ſhortened*, nor doth this ſinful world ſtand in leſs need of thy grace than formerly; O put forth again that new-creating power with which thy goſpel hath been heretofore accompanied, that thy *word may ſtill be glorified*, by the converſion of many hearts to God.

Great thanks would we render to thee, O Lord, that we are yet favoured with the means of grace. Much as thy day hath been diſregarded, and much as public worſhip hath been neglected, theſe things have not yet provoked thee to deprive us of the light of thy goſpel. O continue this bleſſing among us ſtill, and cauſe us to give more heed unto it, as unto a *light ſhining in a dark place*. Have mercy on them, who value not this great advantage, and make them to know

know the ſupports and conſolations which it yieldeth unto thy ſervants. O that ſome of thoſe poor wanderers, who (*not knowing the things that belong to their peace*) devote this day to forbidden pleaſure, may be brought home to thy fold, and made to rejoice in that holy word of God, which now they deſpiſe.

Let this, O Lord, be a day of comfort to the afflicted. Let the oppreſſed, the deſolate, the troubled in mind, flock to thy houſe, and there find relief. *O let them not return aſhamed; let the poor and needy praiſe thy name.*

Meet and bleſs all thoſe, who ſhall wait on thee this day, *hungering and thirſting after righteouſneſs.* And O that we of this family may thus wait upon Thee. The more we hear concerning God and heavenly things, the more may we wiſh to hear.

But let us not be mere hearers: May thy holy ſpirit influence us, not only as a *ſpirit of wiſdom*, but as a *ſpirit of love;* that we may *give our heart* unto God, and that it may be our *meat and drink to do his will.*

May

May every ſucceſſive opportunity of waiting on thee in thy houſe, increaſe in us all thoſe holy diſpoſitions, by which thy ſervants are fitted for the worſhip of heaven. Make us to grow *rich in faith, and in good works*, but ſtill keep us low in our own eyes; and remembering *who made us to differ* from others, may we be always ſaying, *Not unto us, O Lord, but to thy name be the praiſe.*

Let us from day to day be kept living like the bleſſed expectants of a better ſtate; waiting with humble and joyful hope for that glorious period, when our Redeemer *ſhall appear unto* our complete *ſalvation*;—when the laſt ſtorm ſhall blow on the church, when the laſt dart ſhall be thrown by the wicked one, and the laſt enemy ſhall be deſtroyed. Now to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, be glory for ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for Chriſt's coming into the World.

O THOU, who art *over all*, GOD *bleſſed for ever*, look upon us; and aſſiſt us, in offering up the ſacrifices of praiſe and prayer. Help us to adore thee for the mercies of redemption. If thine holy *angels deſire to look into theſe things*, how ought we, for whom this redemption was wrought, to dwell on the ſubject, and to be continually aſcribing *glory to the* GOD of Salvation.

O that we had the tongues of angels to celebrate that great compaſſion of our God to ſinners, which made him ſend his bleſſed *Son into the world, that through him it might be ſaved.* O Lord, whenever we conſider what man is, either by looking into the world, or into our own hearts, this mercy appears *too wonderful for us.* How eaſy had it been for thee to have puniſhed all thoſe, who rebelled againſt thee: But *thy thoughts towards us were*

were thoughts of peace, and not of evil; and therefore, inſtead of ſtretching forth thy mighty hand to deſtroy us, thou haſt made *bare an arm of ſalvation* in our behalf.

And now, O Lord, ſince it hath been our happy lot to be born in a land, in which the bleſſed tidings of this grace are publiſhed, enable us rightly to conceive of the wonderful loving-kindneſs of Him, who took our nature upon him, *and dwelt among us*. Enlarge our minds, O Lord, that *we may be* better *able to comprehend the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, of the love of Chriſt, which paſſeth knowledge*.

Teach every one of us the greatneſs of our obligations to that bleſſed Saviour, who came to *redeem us by his blood*. Make every one of this family to know what he is in himſelf, that he may learn how to value the great love of him, who *gave his life a ranſom* for ſinners.

And grant, O Lord, that none of thoſe who hear of his name may like the unbelieving Jews reject him. Let it not be ſaid that *he came* to us, and *we received him not*. May

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we receive him as a *Saviour*, by believing on him;—as a *Guide*, by following him;—as a *Friend*, by loving him;—and as a *Maſter*, by ſerving him.

Let it not content us, O Lord, to call ourſelves by the name of Chriſt; but may we remember, that he came into the world, not merely to give us a new name, but to make us *new creatures*. Enable us then to *put off the old man, which is corrupt*, and to *put on the new man, which, after* GOD, *is created in righteouſneſs, and true holineſs*.

Be graciouſly pleaſed to open the eyes of thoſe who call themſelves chriſtians, and yet conſider not the end for which *Chriſt came into the world*. Grant that they may ſee what true chriſtianity is; and may they partake of that grace by which thy genuine diſciples are preſerved from *riot and drunkenneſs; from chambering and wantonneſs*; and are enabled to *live a ſober, righteous, and godly life, in this preſent world*.

O Lord, let thy kingdom ſpread on the earth. Scatter the darkneſs which prevents men

men from ſeeing its glory, weaken the powers which oppoſe its progreſs, and ſucceed the lawful endeavours of all thoſe who labour for its extenſion. Let the *weapons of their warfare* be found *mighty to the pulling down* every *ſtrong hold* of error, and to the *ſetting up that kingdom*, which is *righteouſneſs, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghoſt.*

Look, O Lord our God, upon a *world* ſtill *lying in wickedneſs*, and *ſend forth thy light and thy truth* to lead men into the way of peace.

Bleſs all who are called to preach the *glorious Goſpel of the bleſſed* God. May they deliver thy word with clearneſs, and force; and may thy Holy Spirit ſo accompany their miniſtry, that many may be brought to know thee *the only true* God, and to live in the faith and love of the Redeemer, to the end of their days.

And may the *word of thy grace*, which we hear from time to time, make us more *fruitful in every good work*, through Jeſus Chriſt, our only Mediator and Advocate; in whoſe

whoſe name and words we further call upon thee ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

That we may ſet GOD *always before us.*

ALL thy works ſhall praiſe thee, O Lord, and thy ſaints ſhall bleſs thee: They ſhall *ſpeak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.* Nor would we be ſilent in thy praiſe. We pray that our eyes may be opened to ſee Thee, in all thy works, and that our hearts may devoutly regard the many teſtimonies of thy wiſdom, power, and goodneſs, with which we are ſurrounded.

Let the works of creation remind us of *the Lord our Maker, who ſtretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth.*

Let thy "never-failing providence, which ordereth all things in heaven and earth," teach us to praiſe thee for what we have received, and to truſt thee for what we want. May we ſo regard it, that our hearts may be kept ſtedfaſt amidſt threatening appearances, and be enabled to rejoice, at all times, that *the Lord reigneth.*

But above all, open our eyes to behold the glories of thy grace. Let our hearts be filled with wonder, love, and praiſe, for thine "ineſtimable love in the redemption of the world, by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt." May we be enabled, by faith, to take to ourſelves the comfort of that great love, which thou haſt ſhewn to ſinners, in *giving thy dear Son for the life of the world.* May we know that *we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveneſs of our ſins;* and having *ſeen thy ſalvation*, may we *go on our way rejoicing.*

Enable us to walk as the *redeemed of the Lord.* We dwell in a *world that lieth in wickedneſs*, and we carry about us a *body of ſin and death:* O look upon our dangers, and our weakneſs, and guard us, this day, from

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the luſt of the fleſh, the luſt of the eye, and the pride of life.

And do thou, *who keepeſt the feet of thy ſaints*, preſerve us from going in the way of temptation. *May we walk circumſpectly; not as fools, but as wiſe.* If *ſinners therefore entice us*, ſuffer us *not to conſent* to them: Never may we venture to go where *thy preſence will not go with us.*

And leſt temptation ſhould follow us even into the path of duty, enable us to put on the *whole armour of* GOD, that we may be *able to ſtand* in the hour of danger. Strengthen us by the aids of thy Holy Spirit, for every conflict, that although fiercely aſſaulted, we may *endure*; and though wounded, we may ſtill continue the *good fight of faith*; and at length, receive from thy gracious hands, *the crown of life.*

O Lord, enable us to go forward in thy paths, and all will be well: for there are *more with thy* people, than there are *againſt them*; and *greater is he that is in them, than he that is in the world.* But make us, never-

theleſs, to watch and pray againſt every thing, that may tempt us to *depart from the living* God. Seeſt thou, that the *deceitfulneſs of ſin* is working in the heart of any one of us? O Lord, let it proceed no further; let the impoſture be diſcovered, and the *ſnare broken*; that the ſoul that was in danger, may rejoice in that God, who worketh deliverance for his ſervants.

Let us not be ſo *fooliſh as to truſt in our own hearts*. Let the *Lord be our confidence*, and let us have *none in the fleſh*. We would come to Thee daily for freſh ſupplies of grace, that what we have not in ourſelves, we may *receive out of the fulneſs of our Saviour*: O let the ſtream which floweth from that rock follow us all through the wilderneſs; that although there be *fightings without, and fears within*, our ſouls may be filled with ſtrength and peace.

Theſe ineſtimable bleſſings we entreat thee to pour down, not only on us, but on others likewiſe. And herein we particularly pray for our dear kindred. Thy word teaches us to ſeek their welfare like thoſe who know

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what is good for man. And therefore we pray, that they may all *know the truth, and that the truth may make them free.* Yea thus, O Lord, would we pray for all mankind; O that the *Kingdoms of this World may become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Chriſt* *.

We humbly requeſt thee, O Lord, to preſerve us this day from every evil, temporal and ſpiritual, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

* *To be added if one of the Family is going a Journey.*

We commend to thy care, O Lord, thy ſervant who is entering upon a journey. Be thou his director and defender. Be graciouſly pleaſed to keep him, not only from bodily evils, but from running into temptation. May he return in peace to this houſe, and may we all join again in praiſing thee for thy mercies towards each other.

MONDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for our national Advantages, and Prayer for the Continuance and Improvement of them.

THOU, O Lord, art *over all bleſſed for ever. Thine is the greatneſs, and the glory, and the victory, and the majeſty.* And although thine authority is but little regarded among men, yet art thou daily ſhewing forth thy goodneſs: For it is Thou that giveſt *rain, and fruitful ſeaſons*, and divideſt to the nations the peculiar bleſſings which they enjoy

Glory be to thy name for the favours which thou haſt ſhowered down upon our land. We bleſs thee for a fruitful ſoil, an healthy climate, a mild government, and for all the temporal bleſſings, with which thou haſt diſtinguiſhed this favoured kingdom.

But moſt of all we bleſs thee for cauſing the light of thy *glorious goſpel* to reach us, whoſe

whoſe forefathers were among the darkeſt of the heathen nations. *Through the tender mercy of our God, the day-ſpring from on high hath viſited us, to give light to them who ſit in darkneſs, and in the ſhadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

We pray thee to give us a thankful ſenſe of all our mercies; among which, we count it one of the greateſt, that we live under a free government. Bleſſed be thy name, that we are left at perfect liberty to follow the light of thy word, whitherſoever it leadeth us.

How ſeldom, O Lord, have thy ſervants had the peaceable poſſeſſion of this privilege! How generally has it been their lot, to proſecute their everlaſting concerns under the frowns of the world, and often at the hazard of their very lives! But we *ſit under our own vine and fig tree, none making us afraid.* May we be duly ſenſible of the worth of this bleſſing; and be daily praiſing thy name that we can enjoy, in ſuch a world as this, the unmoleſted privilege of ſerving God according to the dictates of our conſciences.

O Lord, holy and true, we muſt own with ſhame, that, as a people, we have not made that moral improvement of our national privileges which we ought: if wicked men therefore ſhould be permitted to riſe up among us, and diſturb our peace, we muſt confeſs, O Lord, that we deſerve the chaſtiſement.

But thy word encourages even thoſe who deſerve judgment, to cry for mercy. Hear us then, O thou, who art ever ready to receive the petitions of thoſe, who pray to thee in the name of thy dear Son. We intreat thee, by his obedience, his agonies on the croſs, and all the merits of his mediation, to be ſtill *favourable to our land.*

Bleſs us ſtill with the comforts of order, and regular government. May the duties of magiſtracy be faithfully diſcharged; and grant that the powers under which thou haſt placed us, may be *reverenced by the good, and dreaded by evil men.*

Suffer not evil-deſigning men to miſlead the minds of the ſimple. Guard us againſt thoſe

whoſe

whoſe word eateth like a canker. And that our minds may not be corrupted by them, let thy word, O Lord, be our conſtant ſtudy, and our rule in every thing. Give us grace faithfully to follow the directions of thoſe Holy Scriptures, which teach us to *fear God, and to honour the King*; and which caution us *not to meddle with them who are given to change.* Let us *ſtudy to be quiet, and do our own buſineſs*; that we may *walk as the ſons of God, harmleſs, and without rebuke, in our generation.*

We pray thee, to give us grace deeply to repent of all our negligence, in not improving our national advantages to the beſt purpoſes: And enable us to make a better uſe of them for the time to come. Bleſſed be thy name, that they are yet continued to us; O, that we may not provoke thee to take them away!

Pour out the grace of thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, upon all orders of men, that the *fear of thy name* may be found among high and low, rich and poor. Grant that this holy principle may increaſe among us; that the peace of our land may ſtand on firmer ground:

ground: for thy word teaches us to conſider true religion, as the greateſt ſecurity of a people,

Bleſſed be thy name, that amidſt an awful degeneracy of manners, there are ſome who not only call themſelves chriſtians, but who are ſuch *in deed and in truth*. Lord, increaſe their number! And may we be found with them, abſtaining from the ſins of the times in which we live, and diſcharging the duties, to which the times call us.

Help us, O God of grace, to walk day by day, as diſciples of Jeſus; *that all things may work together for our good*. To thy providential care we now commend ourſelves; Be our protector from every evil to which we are expoſed. Theſe mercies we aſk in the name of that adorable Mediator, *by whom we have acceſs* to Thee, though in ourſelves unworthy to approach thy Throne,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Government of the Thoughts.

O MOST gracious Lord, thou haſt mercifully heard and anſwered the requeſts which we made to Thee laſt night. We have been bleſſed with protection, with peace, and with reſt. We appear before thee again, to commit ourſelves anew to thy care, that we may be preſerved from the dangers to which we are liable this day.

And we pray to be kept not only from thoſe evils which come from without, but from thoſe alſo which our Lord hath told us, *come from within, and defile the man.* O thou who ſearcheſt, and who canſt regulate the hearts of the children of men, preſerve us this day from all impure ideas; from all angry purpoſes; from all diſcontent of mind; and from all vain, as well as wicked, thoughts. We have found ſuch thoughts preſenting themſelves to our minds, and inſtead of rejecting

jecting them with abhorrence, we have too often given them entertainment.

We feel that we need the interceſſion of that bleſſed Advocate who ſtandeth at thy right hand; and we implore, in his name, the pardon of many tranſgreſſions, which no eye but thine hath ſeen.

And do thou, who *knoweſt the things which come into our minds*, and obſerveſt what reception we give them, enable us to reſiſt every unholy thought, that may occur to our minds this day.

O that all within us may ſerve and glorify thee, moſt bleſſed God. And to that end be graciouſly pleaſed to vouchſafe unto us the grace of thy Holy Spirit. May that divine influence be continually preſent with us; ever ſuggeſting to our minds that which is good, enkindling in us ſpiritual affections, and nouriſhing in us an increaſing taſte for that which is holy and heavenly.

Sanctify our imagination that it may not be a ſnare, but a help to us, in our paſſage through life. Let not the great enemy of ſouls

ſouls be ſuffered to carry on his wicked deſigns by means of this faculty; but let thy bleſſed ſpirit ſo regulate it, that we may be neither deceived, nor defiled, nor diſtreſſed through it.

And give us grace, O Lord, to be daily endeavouring to ſtore our minds with good thoughts. Thanks be to thy name for that rich treaſury, the Holy Scriptures, from which our minds may be furniſhed with the moſt ſublime, the moſt improving, and the moſt conſolatory meditations. O may we prize that bleſſed book; may our memories be ſtored with its precious declarations; and may it be one of our chief delights, to think upon them.

Let our minds be occupied with what our God and Saviour hath done for us. Let the remembrance of Jeſu's name become habitual to us. Let the recollection of his compaſſion, his grace, his power, his ſorrows, and his death, his heavenly words, and benevolent actions, be ever preſent to our minds. Author of every good and perfect gift! *open our underſtandings, that we may underſtand the Scriptures;* and may their

their directions, comforts, and proſpects, take full poſſeſſion of our ſouls, that *vain* and wicked *thoughts may not lodge within us.*

And may we not only uſe the proper means for filling our minds with that which is good, but carefully avoid all thoſe things, which tend to ſuggeſt wicked imaginations. Subdue in us, O Lord, all vain and hurtful curioſity. Suffer us never to venture on any forbidden ground; nor to allow ourſelves in any employments, or recreations, by which *Satan may get an advantage over us.* Help us, O gracious God, to act with this wiſe and holy caution throughout this day.

We beſeech thee, O Lord, to give unto us all, the deepeſt ſenſe of the value of thy favour, and of the inſignificance of every thing that can be put in competition with it. Let it not be our principal concern to appear fair in the eyes of our fellow creatures, but to *find grace in thy ſight.* Let us remember that it is *in thy favour* alone *there is life*; and let the conſideration preſerve us from hypocriſy as well as indifference.

Let us, O Lord, be more under the influence of that grace which keeps alive the devout remembrance of thine all-ſeeing eye, that we may think, with increaſing pleaſure as well as profit on *him, with whom we have to do;* and that *out of the abundance of a heart* ſanctified by thy ſpirit, *our mouths may ſpeak* to thy praiſe, and that all our powers may be employed to thy glory. Theſe bleſſings we humbly intreat thee to beſtow upon us, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, who taught us to look up to thee in hope, and addreſs thee in theſe words,

Our Father, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Grace to improve by Afflictions.

MOST merciful God, who art pleaſed to be *nigh unto all thoſe who call upon thee*, and art ready to *fulfil the deſire of thoſe who fear thee;* enable us to make thee our truſt; that

that in the time of trouble we may be able to take ſhelter *under the ſhadow of thy wings.* O that we may be wiſe enough to remember thee in the day of proſperity, ſo wilt thou *know our ſouls in adverſity.* Thou art the ſource of all true comfort: *when thou giveſt quietneſs, who can make trouble*; but when thou hideſt thy face, who then can endure the day of trial!

Suffer us not fooliſhly to expect, that we ſhall *paſs the time of our ſojourning here*, without feeling the *thorns and thiſtles* which the earth *bringeth forth.* And when troubles come upon us, O heavenly Father, *remember that we are but duſt*, or *as a leaf driven to and fro*, and *give us help in time of need.*

Enable us patiently to reſign ourſelves to Thee, who *doſt not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.* Let us wait with meek ſubmiſſion for the time of deliverance. If the trial be continued long, ſuffer not *our eyes to fail with looking upward.* O give us *ſtrength equal to our day*, that *patience may have its perfect work.*

Let

Let not the deſire of relief be the only thing which employs our thoughts when we are in affliction; may we endeavour to *profit* by our trials. When we are *bound in fetters, and are held in cords of affliction, then ſhew us our work, and our tranſgreſſion, wherein we have exceeded*;—then do thou *open our ears to diſcipline*; that we may learn wiſdom in the ſchool of affliction. Let not one of us *cover his ſins*, but *humbling himſelf before God*, may his ſoul anſwer to every ſtroke which thy hand may inflict, *that which I ſee not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will*, by thy help, *do it no more*.

Let the rod of affliction be made to help us in that great and difficult work of withdrawing the heart from the world. When it is found that the idol *cannot ſave us in the time of trouble*, may we ſee the vanity of truſting in it, and remember the leſſon which we are taught, to the end of life. Let us paſs the reſt of *the time of our ſojourning here*, with an eye ſtedfaſtly directed to Thee, the proper object of our truſt: accounting it a mercy to be made to feel that *this* world *is not our reſt*, and improving th diſappointment of our

earthly hopes, by ſeeking that *reſt which remaineth for the people of God* *.

O grant that we may daily become *more meet for the inheritance of the ſaints in light.* Let our faith, and our hope, and every chriſtian temper, be improved, by our paſſing through the furnace of affliction, that our *trials may work for us an exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

And may all thy ſervants be enabled to *glorify thee in the fire* of affliction. Let them not forget the *man of ſorrows*, nor over-look the example of a meek and ſuffering Saviour.

* *In troubleſome times the following addition may be introduced here.*

And grant, O Lord, that the judgment with which our land is now viſited, may have its proper effect upon us. We humbly pray thee to remove, in thine own time, the puniſhment with which we are now deſervedly afflicted. May it be ſo ſanctified, as to bring us to a due ſenſe of our ſins; and be made the inſtrument of general reformation. And may all thoſe *who fear thy name*, be enabled to glorify thee, by relying on thy power and goodneſs; and to honour religion, by *poſſeſſing their ſouls in patience* during the preſent trial.

But

But may they tread in the ſteps of that bleſſed *forerunner*, who was *led as a lamb to the ſlaughter*, and *committed himſelf to him, who judgeth righteouſly*.

O God our Saviour, be graciouſly pleaſed to *ſuccour the tempted*. Teach them to look to Thee for that *grace which is ſufficient for them*; that though weak in themſelves, they may be ſtrengthened by thy power, and be enabled to hold forth an example of patience, hope, and peace, for the inſtruction of others. O let it be ſeen by the behaviour of ſuffering Chriſtians, that their God is a *preſent help in time of trouble*, and that though they may be ſmitten with the rod of affliction, their condition is truly bleſſed *.

We

* *The following addition for a ſick perſon in the family may be introduced here.*

We intreat thee, O Lord, to look down in mercy on that afflicted perſon in this houſe, to whom thou haſt appointed the cup of trial. Be graciouſly pleaſed to ſanctify to *him* the viſitation of thy providence, by cauſing it to work for *his* good. Vouchſafe to *him* relief in thine own good time; and till that bleſſing is granted, may thy will be ſubmitted to with meek reſignation. Preſerve *him* from

We commend all the children of affliction to thee this night. And we bleſs thy holy name for all thoſe, whom thou haſt this day preſerved from taſting of their cup. Be, O Lord, our defender this night from all evil, and be graciouſly pleaſed to reſtore us to the light of a new day. To thy holy name, be aſcribed everlaſting praiſes. Amen and Amen.

Our Father, &c.

hard thoughts of God while *he* is under affliction, and may *he* be brought out of it, with a deep ſenſe of thy mercy; may *he* obtain grace to profit both by the trial, and by *his* deliverance from it.

But if it ſeem not good unto thee to raiſe *him* up again, O prepare *him*, by thy grace, for *his* departure hence. We humbly intreat thee to give *him repentance unto life*, and a true faith in Jeſus Chriſt. Sanctify *him* by thy Holy Spirit, that *he* may become daily more meet for, and deſirous of, thy heavenly kingdom.

For a ſick child, let the following addition be introduced here.

O thou who art pleaſed to look down with gracious regard upon all thy frail creatures, have compaſſion upon that ſick child, whoſe afflicted caſe we deſire to ſpread before thee. We humbly beſeech thee, to releaſe *him* from his ſufferings. Enable us to wait with patience for thy merciful appearance in *his* favour, and ſubmiſſively to acquieſce in the way, in which it ſhall pleaſe thee to put an end to *his* affliction.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Thanking GOD *for the Gift of a Saviour.*

O MOST bleſſed God, thou art the ſource of all good: without thee, *man is vanity in his beſt eſtate.* Without thee, our light is darkneſs; our wiſdom, folly; our wealth, poverty; our happineſs, but diſguiſed miſery.

O Lord, all that we have cometh from thy bountiful hand. To thee are we indebted for the food we eat, the health we enjoy, the friends who love us, the benefactors who help us, and the inſtructors by whom we are edified. Great is the number of our mercies: But there is one which exceeds all the reſt; the ineſtimable gift of a Redeemer, who is *able to ſave to the uttermoſt*, and *caſteth out none that come to him.*

We pray thee to fill our hearts with thankfulneſs for this *unſpeakable gift*, in which all that we want is to be found. Give, O Lord,

unto every one of us ſuch a ſenſe of our own poverty, as ſhall make us gladly apply to Chriſt for *wiſdom*, *righteouſneſs*, *ſanctification*, *and redemption*.

May we apply to him with a contrite, and yet a believing heart, that *out of his fulneſs we may receive grace for grace*;—that we may paſs from condemnation to peace; from fear to hope; and from the bondage of ſin to that holy liberty, with which *Chriſt maketh his people free*.

May we not only look to him, as our *advocate with the Father*, but may we *abide in him*; that we may be always able to ſpeak of him as a *refuge from the ſtorm*, a *ſhadow from the heat*, and as *rivers of waters in a thirſty land*.

O may we be *living branches in* that *true vine*, *ſeparate from whom we can do nothing*. And may this vital union be evidenced by all it's genuine fruits; that we may paſs our days rejoicing in that Saviour, who is the *rock*, on which the church is built; the *manna*, by which

it

it is fed; the *light*, by which it is cheared; and the ſubject of its everlaſting ſongs.

Enable us to walk this day as *the redeemed of the Lord. The time paſt of our life*, O Lord, may indeed *ſuffice to have wrought the will of the gentiles*; but now let us *have no fellowſhip with the unfruitful works of darkneſs*. Let the *love of Chriſt conſtrain us*. Let us *live to Him, who died for us*.

And may the remembrance of our Redemer's name refreſh us under the labours of this life. May the recollection of the ſufferings he endured for us, reconcile us to the croſſes, and guard us amidſt the ſnares to which we are expoſed. O may the ſharpeſt ſufferings be leſs horrible to our minds, than the thought of *crucifying the Son of God afreſh*, by wilfully committing thoſe ſins for which he bled on the croſs.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon the nations which are yet in darkneſs. Let the *glory of the Lord be revealed, and all fleſh ſee it together*; that the *name of Jeſus may be known, and loved*,

and *rejoiced in*, wherever there is a human creature to hear the *glad tidings* of his grace.

And wherever thou ſendeſt thy word, let it be accompanied with that power which thou haſt over the heart of every man, to cauſe the *truth to be received in the love of it*. Let not thy ſervants, whom thou haſt *put into the miniſtry*, have to complain, that their *report is not believed*. O let not the *God of this world blind the eyes of men*, when that bleſſed light of the goſpel ſhines around them, which ſhews them the *things which belong to their peace*.

The Lord bleſs and preſerve us, and ours, and all, for whom we ought to pray, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, our only mediator, and advocate; in whoſe words, we further call upon Thee, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For the Wiſdom and Piety which is requiſite in the Government of a Family.

O THOU who didſt promiſe to be the *God of the families of Iſrael*, let thy bleſſing reſt upon this houſe; that it may be the habitation of piety, of order, and of peace.

O gracious God, whatever others do, *as for us, we will ſerve the Lord.* Bleſſed be thy name for giving us grace to make this reſolution; we pray that we may never depart from it. And ſince thou condeſcendeſt to ſpeak of *dwelling among men*, we pray that thou wouldeſt be pleaſed to dwell among us. For where thou art, O Lord, there abideth peace.

We can expect no real enjoyment of any thing without thy bleſſing. Unworthy as we are of it, we are encouraged to aſk for it through the mediation of Jeſus Chriſt.

Enable

Enable us, O Lord, to ſeek for it in the faithful diſcharge of the duties of our ſtation. Make thy ſervant, whom thou haſt ſet over this houſe, a wiſe and godly ruler of his family. Here let God be always honoured. Here let the voice of prayer and praiſe be daily heard, and the light of holy examples be continually ſeen.

Give grace to thy ſervant, O Lord, to baniſh from this houſe all thoſe hurtful cuſtoms, which the ungodly ſpirit of the world hath brought into families. Enable him with wiſdom, and in the ſpirit of kindneſs, to keep out of his family every thing by which the minds of his houſhold may be polluted.—Teach him to watch over his abode like a faithful ſhepherd of the flock committed to him; that not only no groſs enormity be allowed within it, but that nothing which may lead to idle and frivolous habits be ſuffered to eſtabliſh itſelf here.

O God, let this houſe be a place of inſtruction; let it be a nurſery of piety, in which thoſe who go from us, may learn to fill the

ſtations

ſtations allotted to them, with a conſcientious regard to the duties incumbent on them.

And give ſucceſs, O Lord, to our humble endeavours. Look in mercy upon theſe children and ſervants, whom we ſeek to bring up in the *nurture and admonition of the Lord*; and grant, that they may *keep thy ways*, and walk therein unto the end.

And may we, of this family, not only be regular and orderly in our life and converſation, but be influenced by the ſpirit of chriſtian unity and love. May we *bear one another's burdens; and ſo fulfil the law of Chriſt.* May we not only be ready to aſſiſt each other under bodily infirmities, but bear, like Chriſtians, with what is wrong in one another.

And for this purpoſe, pour thy grace, O Lord, into every heart. Let every one of this houſe feel that efficacious influence of thy Holy Spirit, which leads us to that which is right, by firſt humbling us for what is wrong. Let our hearts be properly affected by thy patience and mercy to us, who

in

in ſo *many things offend*, that we may exerciſe that mutual forbearance, without which there can be no ſound family peace. O let that power of our Saviour's grace be known among us, by which ſinful men are reconciled to God, and to one another. *Make us all to be of one mind in this houſe*, and let that be the mind of an enlightened, humble, and heavenly-tempered creature, taught of God to *follow holineſs and peace*.

O God of mercy pity all thoſe who are *as ſheep having no ſhepherd*. Have compaſſion on the children and ſervants of families, in which thy *name is* never *called on*. Save them from the evils to which uninſtructed ſouls are expoſed, and into which we ſee many of them fall.

And

During the aſſizes, or at any other ſeaſon for trying public offenders, the following addition may be introduced here.

And may our hearts be touched with chriſtian compaſſion, at ſeeing ſo many brought to infamy, and to an untimely end. We humbly commend to thy mercy, O Lord, all thoſe whoſe ſins have brought them to public puniſhment. O that the poor wretched exile may learn

And by the vices and miſeries, which ſo frequently follow the neglect of religious inſtruction in early life, teach us, of this houſe, to ſet a due value on it. Let not the younger branches of the family be impatient to *burſt the bonds, and break the yoke* of godly diſcipline, but be thankful to God that care is taken of them: and pray, that they may give a good account of thoſe advantages which God hath put into their hands. O lead us all, day by day, in thine own paths, that our way be peace, and our end may be peace, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

learn inſtruction in that diſtant land, to which he is baniſhed! May his ſufferings *bring him to himſelf*, that he may bleſs the God of ſalvation; and though driven from his native country, may he be received at laſt into thy kingdom.

But eſpecially look on thoſe, who are condemned to die for their offences. O thou who didſt pour the grace of repentance into the heart of the dying thief, vouchſafe the like mercy to thoſe who are appointed unto death; that they may be as *brands plucked out of the fire*. And may their untimely end be regarded as a warning of the conſequences of ſin.

THURSDAY

THURSDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Influence of God's Holy Spirit.

ETERNAL and ever-bleſſed God, by whom all things were made, and by whom they are upheld, mercifully look down from the throne of thy glory, upon the unworthy creatures who are now bowing at thy footſtool.

O Lord, there is nothing that can yield real ſatisfaction to our hearts, but a knowledge of thyſelf as our God, and our friend. We are *ſeeking the living among the dead*, till we look for our happineſs in thee. Put therefore a deſire into our ſouls to know thee, and to be as much united to thee as ſuch frail creatures can be to the ever-bleſſed Creator.

But, O great God, how ſhall we attain to ſuch honour and happineſs? Art thou not of *purer eyes than to behold iniquity?* Do we not

not know that we are defiled by ſin? O Lord, our very endeavours to be holy prove it; if we ſet ourſelves to pray unto thee, to read thy word, or to meditate on everlaſting things, it is with difficulty that we can keep our attention fixed, even for the little time we are thus employed. Hereby we ſee that the natural tendency of our hearts is to depart from God.

How then can God have any thing to do with ſuch ſinful creatures? We might form conjectures of our own to anſwer this enquiry: but we ſhould have no aſſurance of their being any thing more than the vain imaginations of a depraved heart. What cauſe have we therefore to thank thee for thy holy word, which both ſhews us the way to God, and how to walk therein.

Bleſſed be thy name for a Mediator, in whom we may approach thee, and obtain mercy! Bleſſed be thy name, for the promiſe of thy Holy Spirit to cleanſe and purify our hearts, that we may be made meet to hold communion with God, and enjoy the *light of his countenance!* O grant us this grace, for the

ſake

ſake of him who *bore the croſs*, and is now *ſitting down at the right hand of the Majeſty on high*.

We call to mind the glorious day of pentecoſt; that day, when *mercy rejoiced againſt judgment*, by *turning the hearts of the diſobedient to the wiſdom of the juſt*. O let that power which *pricked the hearts* of our Lord's perſecutors, again attend the miniſtry of the goſpel! Let not thoſe who *labour in the word and doctrine*, ſpend their *ſtrength for nought*; but may thy word be ſtill accompanied with the influence of thy Holy Spirit, that it may be *quick and powerful, and both* humble and gladden the hearts of thoſe, who hear it.

O thou who art able to make the *wolf dwell with the lamb, and the leopard to lie down with the kid;* and who didſt on the day of pentecoſt, glorioufly ſhew forth this transforming power of thy grace, pour forth upon us that ſpirit of *brotherly kindneſs*, by which the firſt diſciples were diſtinguiſhed. Enable us who call ourſelves chriſtians, to *put on, as the elect of God, bowels of mercies, kindneſs, and long-ſuffering*; that all men may know whoſe diſciples

diſciples we are, by the love that we bear one towards another.

May thy bleſſed ſpirit impart unto every perſon in this family, that ſpiritual life, which will cauſe us to ſeek after *every* chriſtian temper. Let us be known as the followers of the Lord, by *love*, *joy*, *peace*, *long-ſuffering*, *gentleneſs*, *goodneſs*, and by all other fruits of thy Holy Spirit. Unite us, unworthy creatures, to that bleſſed company, who ſhall to all eternity praiſe thee for raiſing up a mighty Saviour for them, and for giving them grace to truſt in him, and to love him, with their whole heart.

May thy Holy Spirit abide with thy church *continually*, and may we be always under his ſanctifying influences, that we may not only ſee the *way of ſalvation*, but alſo *walk therein* day by day. Cauſe us to increaſe in faith, in hope, and in charity; and while our *light is ſhining* brighter, may our hearts be more and more filled with that *peace of God, which paſſeth all underſtanding*.

Be mercifully pleaſed, O Lord, to be with all of us, this day, in our ſeveral places; keeping us from evils and dangers of every kind. And ſuch as may be permitted to befal us, do thou ſanctify to us, *making them to work for our good.* Let us be concerned to live as we ought to live in thy ſight, and thou wilt care for us in all things. In this holy care, and in this bleſſed confidence, we pray thee to keep us, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

A Prayer for all States.

O GOD of mercy, who teacheſt us to *make prayers and ſupplications* for others, as well as for ourſelves, vouchſafe to hear our requeſts for all ſtates and conditions of men.

We

We rejoice, O Lord, that although *iniquity greatly aboundeth* in the world, yet *thou reigneſt* over the works of thy hands. Thou art able to turn the courſe of all things here to the glory of thine own holy name, and canſt make even *the wrath of man to praiſe thee.*

We thank thee, moſt merciful God, for the *benefits and comforts of civil government.* We pray, that thy bleſſing may reſt on this thine appointment, and on all perſons, who are employed therein. Be thou the counſellor, and ſupporter, of all *Chriſtian Kings*, and all perſons, to whom the powers of government are committed; that they may neither *neglect* the important duties of their office, nor *ſink* under their weighty cares.

Let thy choiceſt bleſſings deſcend on thy ſervant our King. May he be the father of his people; and may "we, and all his ſubjects, duly regard that authority," which thou haſt given to him. Bleſs him with wiſdom in the choice of all his miniſters, that all places of truſt may be filled by able and conſcientious men. Defend him, O Lord,

from the deſigns of evil men; and let there *be abundance of peace in his days.*

We praiſe thee, for having been pleaſed to favour this land with a chriſtian miniſtry. Grant, O Lord, that all thoſe, who have this office entruſted to them, may know, and love the *truth as it is in Jeſus.* Bleſs them with wiſdom, patience, zeal, humility, and love to mankind, that they may be *burning and ſhining lights* in the world; *holding forth thy word* by their lives, as well as by their diſcourſes. And may the *ſeed* which they ſow, produce much *fruit* to the glory of thy name.

O that all the churches which have gone aſide from the path of truth, may ſee, and forſake their errors. May that Holy Spirit, through whoſe gifts the firſt chriſtian ſocieties were ſo diſtinguiſhed, be again poured forth, that the *pure and undefiled religion* of our God and Saviour, may revive among all who call themſelves Chriſtians.

We bleſs thee, O Lord, for all thoſe, whom thou haſt enabled to *keep the faith.* Strengthen

theſe

theſe thy ſervants, O God, to perſevere in the *good way*, into which thou haſt brought them. *Cauſe them always to triumph in Chriſt.* May thy Holy Spirit increaſe in them all heavenly tempers, that they may be happy and honourable *witneſſes of the truth*, wherever they dwell.

Have mercy, O God of patience and power, on all thoſe, who have not yet returned unto thee. *The hearts of all are in thy hand.* There are none ſo hardened, but thou canſt ſoften them; none ſo blind, but thou canſt enlighten them: even the very dead, thou canſt quicken. O repeat in thy great mercy thoſe miracles of grace which thou haſt heretofore performed, and bring home *to thy fold*, them who are now *as ſheep going aſtray.*

Make us thankful for our preſervation from the trials to which human life is ſubject; but let not our enjoyments make us forgetful of the ſufferings of others. Give us the tender ſpirit of our Lord. *In all our affliction he was afflicted:* So may we *remember them that are in adverſity*; and do thou hear our prayers for them.

Look, O Lord, in pity on all the nations which are viſited with the dreadful calamities of war, or peſtilence, or famine. Look in mercy likewiſe, on all ſuffering individuals. Be thou the protector of the widow; a parent to the orphan; a companion to the priſoner; a phyſician to the ſick; a comforter to the afflicted; a friend to the poor. And may the troubles of the afflicted wean them from this world (to which we all cleave too much) and cauſe them to liſten to the voice of that gracious Saviour, who inviteth the *weary, and the heavy laden*, to come to him.

We bleſs thee for every attempt that has been made this day to do good to men, either in their temporal or ſpiritual concerns. Be mercifully pleaſed to preſerve thoſe precious lives which are devoted to ſuch ſervices, and ſucceed their humane and pious endeavours.

Finally, O Lord, we commend into thy hands all for whom we ought to pray. We intreat thee to bleſs this family. We have much to aſk for ourſelves as well as for others; but known unto thee are all our neceſſities. We humbly intreat thee to ſupply them

them as thou ſeeſt fit; and prepare us daily, by thy grace, for that better ſtate in which none of the ſins or miſeries of this world, will have any place. O may we be daily *longing for thy* complete *ſalvation*, and yet patiently *waiting for it*, through Jeſus Chriſt, our mediator and advocate *.

Our Father, &c.

* *The following Thankſgiving, for the ſafe return of children from ſchool may be introduced here.*

Among the mercies of this day, O Lord, we reckon the ſafe return of our dear children. Bleſſed be thy name, for thy goodneſs towards them, during the time of their ſeparation from us. We thank thee alſo for thy preſervation of them on their journey hither. May thy bleſſing reſt upon them, and cauſe them, whether abroad or at home, to *increaſe in wiſdom, and in ſtature, and in favour with God and* good *men.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

Praiſe for the Bleſſings of Providence and Redemption.

FATHER of mercies and God of all comfort, we thank thee for having made thyſelf known by the moſt gracious names: they encourage helpleſs and guilty creatures, to hope, to believe, to pray, and to rejoice.

Bleſſed be thy name for the various proofs which thou haſt given of thy mercy; *O Lord, the earth is full of them:* although wickedneſs dwelleth in it, although it is inhabited by a *ſeed of evil doers*, yet through thy goodneſs, it abounds with the means of comfort, and enjoyment!

We have brought ſin into the world, and ſin hath brought ſuffering into it; but thou, compaſſionate God! (againſt whom that ſin is committed) haſt ſtored the world with the means of relief. Thou mighteſt have abandoned man to the evils he brought on himſelf; but

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in thy great mercy, thou haſt provided remedies for us, and haſt ſhewn us where to find, and how to apply them.

We thank thee, O Lord, for every thing which thou haſt mercifully provided to remove pain, to reſcue us from immediate death, to give length to our days, and comfort to ourſelves, and thoſe to whom we are dear. Bleſſed be God for all thoſe medicinal virtues, which thou haſt taught man to diſcover and apply for the relief of them that ſuffer pain or ſickneſs. How manifold are the inſtances of thy goodneſs! How numerous are the ſigns of thy compaſſion! Earth, air, and ſea not only diſplaying thy majeſty, but ſhewing forth the tokens of thy mercy. *O that men would therefore praiſe the Lord for his goodneſs, and declare the wonders which he doeth for the children of men.*

But how ſhall we find words to expreſs the mercy, which thou haſt manifeſted in the redemption of mankind! By our ſin, we have not only brought pain and diſtreſs upon ourſelves, but we have expoſed ourſelves to thy righteous anger, and to a ſentence of everlaſting

laſting baniſhment from thy preſence. But to prevent this thou haſt appeared for us: *rich in mercy*, as well as *infinite in wiſdom*, thou haſt furniſhed the means of our being ſaved from all the dreadful conſequences of ſin.

And, O great God, how aſtoniſhing are theſe means! Could it ever have entered into the heart of man to conceive, that thou ſhouldeſt *ſo love the world, as to give thine only begotten Son for its ſalvation!* O how ſhall we raiſe a ſong of praiſe which ſhall fully ſet forth that love divine, which hath been ſhewn in *God's being manifeſt in the fleſh*; in his ſubmitting to ſufferings, and expiring on the croſs, to deliver a race of rebels from the puniſhment due to them: O Lord God Almighty, what grace is this! Bleſs *the Lord, O our ſouls, and all that is within us praiſe his holy name*; and let *every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and in the ſea*, praiſe the God of our ſalvation.

Here would we fix our thoughts, O merciful God. Here let them dwell: higher they cannot riſe. Let the recollection of thy mercy,

mercy, ſo unſpeakably great, abide with us all the day: rejoicing our hearts; ſweetening our labours; allaying our fears; regulating our lives; reconciling us to ſufferings; and ſecuring us againſt ſnares. Let it employ our thoughts, and influence us in all our conduct towards our fellow-creatures; inclining us to charity, to peace, to gentleneſs, to patience, and to forbearance.

Let none of the enjoyments of this day ſo ſenſualize our hearts, as to make us forget Him who died for us. While we are partaking of the bounties of Providence, may we call to mind the bloody ſweat, the crown of thorns, and the croſs of a ſuffering Saviour. And may we lift up a thankful heart to him, through whom the curſe, to which we were expoſed, is removed; and the bleſſings, which we forfeited, are reſtored.

Enable us, O Lord, to walk this day as the diſciples of Jeſus; and if we are enabled ſo to walk, we may compoſedly leave every thing with thee. Let us go about the duties of our calling in a ſweet and peaceful reliance on the care, which thou art pleaſed to take of thy

thy ſervants. Thou art able to ſave us from the *greateſt* evils; and thou art willing to extend thy providential regard to the *leaſt* things, in which our happineſs is concerned. Help us then, O Lord, to look to thee as our ſovereign, to rule over us, and our friend to protect us, through Jeſus Chriſt, our bleſſed advocate with God; on whoſe interceſſion we build all our hopes of acceptance with Thee.

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Thankſgiving for the Removal of Afflictions.

BLESSED be God who *caſteth not away our prayer, nor turneth his mercy from us.* Although it ſeemeth good unto thee, O Lord, ſometimes to *cauſe grief, yet haſt thou compaſſion* on us; *according to the multitude of thy mercies.* And when thou *viſiteſt with the rod,* thy hand is not ſo ſevere as it would be, wert thou

thou to *deal with us according to our ſins*. If we are *in heavineſs, it is but for a ſeaſon*. Our chaſtiſements do not endure ſo long, nor return ſo frequently, as our offences.

O moſt gracious God, who *pardoneſt iniquity, and paſſeſt by tranſgreſſion*, let us *ſing aloud of thy mercy*; for *thou haſt been our defence, and our refuge* in the day of our trouble *.

There is not one of us, but hath great reaſon to make thy mercy his ſong. O give a thankful heart to thoſe, who have been preſerved from trouble. Beſtow the ſame grace on thoſe, who have been delivered out of it. Some of us have *cried unto thee out of depths* of affliction, but from thence the voice of prayer reached thy gracious ear. *Thou didſt*

* *The following Thankſgiving, for deliverance from any impending danger, ſuch as a conflagration, a flood, a violent tempeſt, &c. may be introduced here.*

We have great reaſon to ſpeak thus, O Lord, for thy merciful appearance in our favour this day. Danger was at hand, but God was near: and through his help, we have been preſerved. O that our lives as well as our lips may ſhew forth thy praiſe!

ſend

ſend from above, thou didſt ſtretch out thine hand, and dreweſt us out of many waters *.

Now, Lord, grant that we may not forget *the vows which our lips uttered, when we were*

* *The following Thankſgiving, for the ſafe delivery of a woman in travail, may be introduced here.*

We have new mercies, O Lord, to acknowledge. We bleſs thy name for the great goodneſs which thou haſt ſhewn to thy ſervant in the time of trouble. We look to thee, O Lord, to guard her from every future danger. O that if it pleaſe thee, ſhe may be raiſed up again. And may ſhe look back with thankfulneſs on this day, in which thou haſt wrought deliverance for her. Let this, and every other mercy, ſhewn to her, lead her to live more to thy glory, that ſhe may become more meet for thy heavenly kingdom.

If the child be alive, the following words may be added.

And O let that child thou haſt given to us, be a comfort to us, and a bleſſing to *his* fellow-creatures. Teach us to bring *him* up in *the fear of thy holy name*; and proſper all our endeavours in this kind, that if we live to ſee *him* arrive at years of maturity, we may have the joy of ſeeing *him* walk in thy ways, and not the ſorrow of ſeeing *him* follow that *multitude*, who are habitually *doing evil*. We commend *him* to thee, O God of ſalvation, that *he* may not only be preſerved from the evils of this world into which *he* is born, but that *he* may live an uſeful life in it, and leave it in hope and peace, whenever the time of *his* departure hence ſhall come.

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in trouble. Let every one whoſe prayer thou haſt heard and anſwered, remember the claim which thou haſt upon him, and ſay, *O Lord, truly I am thy ſervant, for thou haſt looſed my bonds.*

And O that we may not forget the leſſons which we learned in the ſchool of affliction! Let not the man whom thou haſt ſnatched from the borders of the grave, forget how the world appeared to him when he ſtood there. Let him not forget what judgment he then made of the bleſſings which thy word ſets before us, and thoſe which the fooliſh heart longeth after. O God, let the wiſdom which we learn at ſuch times, abide with us. Let us be ſtill liſtening to him who inſtructed us, that we may not *turn again to folly.*

O Lord, when we learn what thou teacheſt us, we ſee things as they really are; and we are convinced, that there is no wealth like the being *rich towards God*;—that there is no honour like *that which cometh from thee*;—that there is no friend like *Chriſt*;—nor any evil ſo much to be dreaded as *ſin.* O Lord, grant that every one, to whom thou haſt

ſhewn

ſhewn theſe things, may make it manifeſt, that he hath profited by thine inſtructions.

Let us now make it our *firſt* buſineſs to *ſeek the kingdom of God.* Incline our hearts to *pray without ceaſing* for that grace, which will enable us to believe, and hope, and obey, unto the end; that this world inſtead of being the place of our ruin, may be to us only the *houſe of our pilgrimage*, and a ſchool in which we may become prepared for thine houſe above *.

Teach us, O Lord, ſo to live in the world, as to be daily providing for that hour, in which we muſt leave it. For we would not forget, that however thou mayſt from time to time relieve us from ſickneſs, or deliver us

* *The following Thankſgiving, for one of the family recovered from a dangerous illneſs, may be introduced here.*

Let none of thy mercies, O gracious God, be forgotten. We bleſs thee for hearing and anſwering our prayers for the recovery of *him*, whoſe diſorder thou haſt removed. We intreat thee to eſtabliſh, and preſerve *his* health. And may a thankful heart be given both to *him*, for whom we beſought thee, and to us, who called upon thee in the day of trouble.

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out of trouble, the hour will come when we muſt *paſs through the valley of the ſhadow of death*. Suffer us not therefore, O our God, to be unmindful that *our change muſt come*. Let us be habitually waiting and preparing for it: wiſely conſidering, that we are ſpared, not to repeat our ſins, but to repent of them;—not to *live after the fleſh*, but to *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt*.

O Lord, with many of us the *night may be far ſpent*, and the day nearer than we are aware. Enable us to *caſt off the works of darkneſs, and put on the armour of light*. May we be always endeavouring to *do good* as long as we continue in the world; but let us not take up our reſt here, but be ever *looking for that bleſſed hope, and the glorious appearance of the great God and our Saviour, Jeſus Chriſt* *.

Merciful

* *The following thankſgiving for the ſafe return of a perſon after a journey or a voyage, may be introduced here.*

We bleſs thee, O Lord, for all the mercies of this day; and particularly for the return of thy ſervant, who through

Merciful and gracious Lord, be pleaſed to preſerve us, and all, for whom we ought to pray, this night, from every evil, temporal or ſpiritual. *Be about our bed* in mercy, as thou haſt been about our *path*; and hear our requeſts for the ſake of thy dear Son, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

A Prayer for the Government of the Tongue.

ALMIGHTY and gracious Creator, who haſt endued us with faculties and powers, by which we are placed above the brutes which periſh, give us grace to employ them all as *inſtruments of righteouſneſs.*

thy good providence arrived among us this day in ſafety. We thank thee for all the bleſſings he received from thee on his journey; and we pray thee to fill his heart and ours with thankfulneſs to thee, for cauſing us to meet again in peace.

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We praiſe thee for the excellent gift of ſpeech, and we pray that thoſe lips which thou haſt opened, may be ever *ſhewing forth thy praiſe.*

We muſt confeſs, O Lord, that we have made a ſinful uſe of this faculty. And O how great is the ſum of thoſe ſins, which our lips have committed! Who can count the number of our fooliſh, our unholy, or our uncharitable words? Yet numberleſs as they are to us, they are all known unto thee. And what can we do, who are not able to recal them, but caſt ourſelves on thy mercy; and pray, that for Chriſt's ſake, thou wouldeſt take away the *tranſgreſſion of our lips?*

O may we ſo bear in mind the miſchiefs done by an unbridled tongue—the miſeries which it occaſions in the world,—and the diſgrace, which it brings upon a chriſtian profeſſion, as to be always afraid of *offending in word.* But leſt ſudden provocation ſhould hurry us into a forgetfulneſs of theſe conſiderations, do thou, O Lord, *ſet a watch before our mouths, and keep the door of our lips.*

And as it is *out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth ſpeaketh*, may our hearts be ſanctified by thy Holy Spirit. We pray for *patience*, that we may never break forth into *fretful and repining language* when we ſuffer. We pray for *meekneſs* of Spirit, that injuries and provocations may not hurry us into *angry and bitter ſpeeches*. May we continually feel a *contrite ſenſe of our own ſins*, that we may refrain from all *uncharitable cenſuring* of others. And be thou graciouſly pleaſed to increaſe in us that *ſeriouſneſs* of mind which becomes our condition, that our converſation may not be debaſed with fooliſh and unchriſtian levities.

We earneſtly intreat thee, O Lord, to ſtrengthen us, that we may uſe a holy violence with ourſelves, wherever a reſtraint is neceſſary. May we have wiſdom to diſcern when we ought to be ſilent, and may we be able to *bridle the tongue*.

Enable us daily, to make the example of Jeſus our pattern. He hath taught us by his life, how to uſe our faculties. O may we not only obtain the pardon of ſin through his blood,

blood, but attain likewiſe to ſome bleſſed degree of reſemblance of him.

Be with us all through this day, moſt gracious God, that however we may be dealt with by others, we may provoke no one, grieve no one, deceive no one. May *the converſation which proceedeth out of our mouth, be that which is good, and which tendeth to the edification of thoſe who hear us.*

We praiſe and bleſs thee, O Lord, for all the comforts of the paſt night. We begin the day with thankſgiving to thee for all thy mercies. And now, O Lord, *let not bleſſing and curſing proceed out of the ſame mouth.* May all our converſation this day agree with what we are now doing, that " we may ſhew " forth thy praiſe, not only with our lips, " but in our lives."

We intreat thee, moſt merciful Father, to guard ſociety from all the evils to which it is expoſed by *unruly and vain talkers.* Confound the deſigns and endeavours of all thoſe, who are ſeeking to ſpread principles of impiety, rebellion, or diſcord. Be graciouſly pleaſed

to preſerve every community from ſuch men, and give ſucceſs to that bleſſed goſpel, which through thy mercy, is yet publiſhed in the world. O may it be faithfully diſpenſed, and may it be bleſſed to the converſion of thoſe who hear it; that love to God and man may dwell in our hearts, be heard in our words, and ſeen in all our actions, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; in whoſe name and words we conclude our humble requeſts:

Our Father, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Review of Life.

O THOU who *without reſpect of perſons judgeſt according to every man's work*, have mercy upon us; and blot out of the *book of thy remembrance*, the manifold tranſgreſſions of

our lives. It becometh us, O Lord, to take a review of the courſe in which we have walked; —but oh what a review is it! How many *ſins committed*, and *talents miſimproved*, and *duties left undone*, doth it diſcover to our guilty minds!

There is not one ſituation in which thy providence has placed us, which we have filled up as becometh thoſe, who have had the light of thy word to direct them. We have failed in our duty towards our neighbour: But when we conſider what we owe to thee, O our good and gracious God, our debts are increaſed to ſuch an amount, that we ſink under the weight of them, and cry, Have mercy on us, O Lord, for *our ſins are more in number than the hairs of our heads.*

Heaven and earth may both witneſs againſt us. Yea, O Lord, our own thoughts teſtify againſt us. Here we ſtand before thee inexcuſable;—ſelf-condemned;—but (bleſſed be thy name!) not *without hope: for there is mercy with thee.* Thou haſt provided a *ſacrifice for ſins.* Thou haſt revealed a SAVIOUR

who made *reconciliation for iniquity*. To him may we, guilty and ſelf-accuſed creatures, *flee for refuge*. Before him, may we proſtrate ourſelves in deep and unfeigned repentance; humbly beſeeching him, to *order our cauſe* before the throne of the Moſt high, that mercy may proceed from thence inſtead of judgement, and that our ſouls may ſing of *abounding grace*.

And ever, ever may the remembrance of our ſins, and of thy mercy, abide with us. Let us *go ſoftly all our days* in the humble recollection that thou haſt ſpared thoſe whom thou couldeſt have deſtroyed. And let the remainder of our lives be conſidered, as a grant of mercy which thou haſt made to guilty creatures, in order to their bringing *forth fruits worthy of repentance*.

Help us, therefore, O Lord, not only to mourn over paſt ſins and omiſſions, but to make it much of the buſineſs of our remaining days, to ſupply the deficiencies of our former ones. May we endeavour, in full dependance on thy grace, to be more faithful

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in relative duties. Let the obligations of parents, of children, of maſters, and of ſervants, be henceforth better fulfilled. Teach us all, to ſhew forth by our behaviour towards each other, the *praiſes of him who hath called us out of darkneſs into his marvellous light*. May we be careful to *render unto all their dues;* and above all let us remember what is due to thee, O bleſſed God, from whom we receive all our bleſſings, temporal, ſpiritual, and eternal. Enable each one, to lift up his heart in ſincerity to thee, and ſay, *Lord what wouldeſt thou have me to do.*

O thou who haſt been pleaſed, notwithſtanding all our ſins, hitherto to preſerve us, vouchſafe us thy help during the remainder of our earthly courſe. We pray thee to be with us, to direct, and to ſtrengthen us. Should any falſe light appear, ſuffer us not to follow it. Should the *enemy come in like a flood*, preſerve us from being ſwept away by it. Thus, O Lord, be thou our light, and our ſtrength; that we may *finiſh our courſe* well, that we may *keep the faith*, and that we may have a well-grounded hope of receiving

a *crown*

a *crown of righteouſneſs*, when Chriſt the Lord ſhall appear.

We know not *what a day may bring forth*; nor need we be deſirous of knowing; let it be enough for us, that without thy permiſſion *not a ſparrow falleth*. Enable us to *caſt all care on Thee*.

Grant that we may fear nothing but the unholy influence, which enjoyments or ſufferings may have upon us. All power is in thine hands; be pleaſed to make *all things work together for our good*. Let our ſouls proſper by every thing which happens to us; whether our day be calm or ſtormy, bright or dark, do thou make us to *grow in grace*, to increaſe in faith, in holineſs, in humility, patience, and charity; that we may be *rich towards God*, whatever we may be in other reſpects.

O Lord, hear theſe our prayers, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, our advocate. In whoſe name, we preſent our thank-offerings, for the manifold mercies we have from time to time received. O continue thine undeſerved goodneſs

neſs to us this night, and may we riſe in the morning with an heart full of thankfulneſs to thee for all our bleſſings. Now to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

OCCASIONAL

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

A Family Prayer for the Morning of a Sacrament Day.

WORTHY art thou, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power: for thou haſt created all things, and for thy pleaſure they are, and were created. By thy word are all things upheld, and to the praiſe of thy wiſdom and goodneſs ſhall they all contribute.

However unſearchable many of thy ways be to us, O Lord, one thing is manifeſt, that thou art *a merciful GOD.* And we bleſs thy holy name for the many ways in which thou haſt been pleaſed to ſhew forth thy mercy to ſinful men.

Above

Above all would we remember that bright diſplay of it, which thou haſt made in giving up thy beloved Son, to be a *ſacrifice for our ſins*. O with what humility, love, and praiſe, ſhould we contemplate this profound myſtery, by which *thou commendeſt thy love to us!*

But alas! we are prone to be forgetful of it; we are therefore bound to be thankful for the inſtitution of that ordinance, which recalls our attention to a bleeding Saviour; *wounded for our tranſgreſſions*, and dying on the croſs that we might live for ever in heaven.

Now, O Lord, prepare our ſouls for this holy ſolemnity. Let us not attend it with any lightneſs of mind; with any groſs or ſuperſtitious views; nor with that cold and unconcerned heart, with which, an unthinking formality may ſend us to thy table. Help us while we partake of the ſigns of our Saviour's body and blood, to conſider, with ſuitable affections, every thing which this ſolemn ordinance *calls to* our *remembrance*.

Enable us to remember with the deepeſt humility, man's fallen and loſt condition by nature,

nature, and to ſee and admire the *riches of that grace* by which a deliverer was raiſed up for us in the perſon of thy dear Son. Help us to fix our eyes on him; and while we recollect, that thou didſt reveal the *coming of this Juſt one* to thine antient church, and didſt hold forth the neceſſity of his death by its numerous ſacrifices, let us rejoice that thy promiſe is fulfilled, and that the end of all the ſacrifices is accompliſhed, by *the offering of the body of Jeſus once for all.*

We would not "approach thy Table truſting in our own righteouſneſs," but as guilty creatures, to lay our hands on the head of that ſpotleſs Lamb, whom *thou haſt ſet forth as a propitiation* for ſin. We would not go relying on our ſtrength, but as weak and indigent creatures, to feed by faith on that *bread of GOD which came down from heaven*, and without which *there is no life in us.*

And while we perform theſe acts of faith, let them be exerciſed with *a contrite ſpirit:* ſuch as we ought to feel, who have ſo much of that guilt to charge ourſelves with, which ariſeth

ariſeth from the miſimprovement of peculiar advantages and diſtinguiſhing mercies. O Lord, the more we think of thy mercy, the more aggravated do our ſins appear. Our guilt is magnified by that very Goſpel which ſheweth us how it may be removed. For how often have we diſregarded that compaſſionate Saviour who ſpeaketh to us therein. We are chargeable with negligence, yea with ingratitude, even towards him who *laid down his life* for us. How much therefore doth it become us to acknowledge that "our ſins are "manifold." Grant, O Lord, that we may not only own this with our lips, but confeſs the humbling truth with unfeigned repentance.

With theſe views we intreat thee to lead us to the table of our Lord; and there, though ſo undeſerving of ſuch favour, may our hearts be refreſhed by the remembrance of his compaſſion, and the conſideration of thoſe wonders of power, wiſdom and grace, which ſhine forth in the redemption of man. There, with all thy church, may we triumph in the *love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the communion of the Holy Ghoſt.* There may we be favoured with ſuch a ſenſe of thy preſence,

as

as ſhall leave on our hearts a conſoling, ſanctifying, and animating impreſſion of divine things.

O let it pleaſe thee to bleſs us in this duty with the quickening influence of thy Holy Spirit, deepening every ſerious impreſſion we may have received; invigorating every devout affection; and aſſimilating us more to Him, to whom our eyes are directed by this inſtitution. While we live by his death, let us not forget what love to GOD and to one another, he hath taught us by his example. And may we ſhew that we have *received grace out of his fullneſs*, by a zeal for the glory of GOD, and by *putting on as the elect of GOD, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindneſs, long-ſuffering, and* the ſpirit of *forgiveneſs*.

We pray, O Lord, that in all the ſervices of this day, both miniſters and people may be under the ſanctifying influence of thy Holy Spirit. Hear theſe our prayers for ourſelves and others, and accept our praiſes, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

A Family

A Family Prayer for the Evening of a Sacrament day.

O MOST gracious Lord, we come as a family to offer up our thankſgivings for the bleſſings of this day. Thou haſt given to us another ſeaſon of reſt and inſtruction. Thanks be to thy holy name, that theſe favours are ſtill continued;—that we ſtill have the ordinances of chriſtian worſhip adminiſtered to us, and that we can go and *ſeek thy face* in them, unmoleſted by the enemies of truth and righteouſneſs.

Would to GOD that we could ſay, we have attended theſe ſolemnities without any interruption from within ourſelves: But this, alas! would be far from the truth. Thou ſuffereſt no enemy from without to moleſt us, but we carry the enemies of our peace and the hindrances to our edification, into thy houſe. Wandering thoughts, worldly cares, ſtupidity and careleſſneſs, accompany us in prayer; diſturb our attention to thy word; and go

with us even to that Table on which the memorials of a crucified Saviour's love are preſented.

Yet although there are theſe cauſes of humiliation on our part, ſuch is the merciful tenour of thy holy word, that we are encouraged to look up to Thee with hope, and pray for a bleſſing on thoſe ordinances we have ſo unworthily attended. O *GOD of all grace*, be pleaſed to hear and anſwer this prayer.

We would now particularly call to mind the opportunity we have this day had of commemorating our bleſſed Saviour's death. O that this ſolemn tranſaction may be made inſtrumental of a cloſer union with our adorable Redeemer. Bleſs it to the increaſe of our faith in him, our love to him, and our rejoicing in him.

Let it not be enough for us to have felt ſome affectionate impreſſions at the table of our Lord; but let us be concerned to bear all thoſe *fruits of the Spirit* which his example holdeth

holdeth forth to us, and by which our love to his name is beſt teſtified.

Deeply affected by ſeeing what it coſt our Redeemer to make atonement for our ſins, may we henceforth make it more our care to be *cleanſed from all filthineſs of the fleſh and ſpirit*, *and* to *perfect holineſs in the fear of GOD.*

" Send thy Holy Ghoſt and pour likewiſe " into our hearts that moſt excellent gift of " charity, the very bond of peace and of all " virtues, without which whoſoever liveth is " counted dead before thee." Let not us who have been contemplating a Saviour laying down his life for us, want *bowels and mercies* for others. Influenced by the grace ſhewn to us, may we be ready to employ every talent with which thou haſt endowed us, for the good of others. Let us not perform the offices of charity with conſtraint; but *gladly* meet every opportunity which thy providence may afford us of imitating Him who ſaid, *It is more bleſſed to give than to receive.* On ſuch occaſions, may we ſhew how deeply his unwearied labours and bitter

agony, endured for us, have imprinted his benevolent maxim on our hearts.

And while we thus ſhew forth the power of our Saviour's grace, raiſing us above the ſenſual and ſelfiſh tendency of our fallen nature, let us ſink into the deepeſt humility before Thee. Let us likewiſe in all our converſation with men, behave as becometh thoſe who have nothing to glory of in themſelves, but who owe all their hopes, their holineſs, and their happineſs, to Thee.

In our paſſage through life, O Lord, enable us ever to keep in view the *death* we have been *ſhewing forth*; and let the remembrance of it fortify our minds againſt the ſnares of the world. Let the love of God therein manifeſted, be our ſupport and our conſolation, under all the trials through which we may have to paſs. Ever remembering that *He who ſpared not his own Son for us, will with him* aſſuredly *give us all things* that are needful, let *our converſation be without covetouſneſs*. And let us learn from him *who took the form of a ſervant, and humbled himſelf to the death of the croſs*, to acquieſce in thy

thy providential appointments, whatever be the condition assigned to us.

O send forth the light of that glorious gospel, from which we derive all these important and sanctifying views; that thousands and tens of thousands of the children of men may share with us, in the knowledge of Christ, and partake of all the blessings of his kingdom.

Enable us to retire to rest with a deep sense of thy mercy in bestowing this light upon us. Encouraged by it, we commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to thy providential care this night. Lord grant these our humble requests, for the sake of Jesus Christ our mediator and advocate. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

PRAYERS

Which may be added to any of the foregoing.

In a Time of Scarcity.

WE humbly pray thee, O Lord, to regard our land in mercy, at this time of ſcarcity. Be pleaſed to look upon the diſtreſſes of the poor, and afford relief to them in thine own good time. Grant, O Lord, that this trying diſpenſation of thy providence may be ſanctified to them, by bringing them to regard God in all their affairs. Teach them to *labour for the meat which endureth unto everlaſting life*, and which Jeſus will give to them who apply to him for it.

May the preſent difficulties have a good effect on all the inhabitants of this land. O that thy judgments may bring our ſins to remembrance!

membrance! May we be ſo humbled under the ſenſe of our tranſgreſſions, as to juſtify thee, and condemn ourſelves. May we learn by all the trials which befal us here, that this world *is not our reſt*. And may we have grace to ſeek after a meetneſs for that bleſſed ſtate, to which thou wilt hereafter conduct all thy faithful ſervants.

In a Time of War.

O moſt holy God, to whom all things are known, and who haſt wiſe reaſons for permitting every event which takes place, give us grace to *humble ourſelves under thy mighty hand*. Take away from us, we beſeech thee, all hardneſs of heart. Cauſe us ſeriouſly to reflect on the miſeries of war, and to obey that awful voice which now *calls us to weeping and to ſupplications*. Sanctify to us the ſolemn ſituation into which our ſinful paſſions have brought us, that we may not only *call upon thy holy name*, but *put away the evils* which provoke thy righteous diſpleaſure.

O merciful God, though we be chaſtiſed, let us not be forſaken by thee. Give wiſdom, we humbly beſeech thee, to thoſe who manage our public affairs, that they may diſcern, and adopt, the beſt meaſures that can be purſued at this time: and do thou be pleaſed to give ſucceſs to them.

But let our eyes be directed to Thee, and ſuffer us not *to truſt in an arm of fleſh*. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and remove that ſore judgment with which we are now viſited, that both we, and all the nations which ſuffer in this war, may again enjoy the bleſſing of peace.

Thanks be to thy name, O God of all grace, for the proſpect of a better ſtate. O that the ſins and miſeries of this world, may ſerve to wean our hearts from it, and to make us the humble and faithful followers of that Saviour, who hath "opened the kingdom of heaven, "to all believers."

In

In a Time of ſevere Froſt.

Teach us, O Lord, to ſtand in awe of that mighty power which now prevents the waters from flowing. Be mercifully pleaſed to ſet bounds to the duration of the preſent ſevere weather, that we may not be puniſhed by it to the degree of which our ſins render us deſerving. Look down in pity, O Lord, on the poor. Open the hearts and hands of thoſe, who are able to help them, that their diſtreſſes may be lightened. And may the ſufferings which the poor, and the aged, feel at this time, be made uſeful to their ſouls, by cauſing them to *call upon God in this day of their trouble.*

In a Time of Drought, or of exceſſive Rain.

O Lord God from whom alone cometh *our daily bread*, have compaſſion on us, and appear for the relief of thine unworthy creatures, by giving to us ſeaſonable weather for the fruits of the earth. The ſun, O Lord, is

thine;

thine; the rain is thine; thou canſt make either of them an inſtrument of ſupplying the wants of a people, or a rod to puniſh them for their ſins. O God, we humbly implore thee, in the name of Jeſus Chriſt, to have mercy on our land, and preſerve the labours of the huſbandman from being deſtroyed. And if thou ſhouldeſt be pleaſed to hear this prayer, O ſuffer us not to forget thy mercies, nor fail to follow prayer with praiſe.

On the Return of Plenty.

Bleſſed be thy name, O Lord, for graciouſly regarding the diſtreſſes of the poor, by affording us a greater plenty of the neceſſaries of life. O Lord, though our ſins are great, yet *thy compaſſions fail not.* Thy chaſtiſements are removed, but it is not becauſe we have deſerved the removal of them, but becauſe it is "thy nature and property ever to "have mercy and to forgive." O let thy *goodneſs lead us to repentance*; and ſince thou haſt ſent food, ſend us alſo the grace of thy Holy

Holy Spirit, that we may thankfully remember that God, who relieved us in the time of neceſſity.

And O gracious Lord, may we duly conſider, that *man liveth not by bread alone*, and may we ſeek after thoſe bleſſings of thy word without which "whoſoever liveth is counted "dead before thee." We bleſs thee, O Lord, for having provided for the well-being of our ſouls. O may we *hunger* after the bread of life, that our ſouls may live, and praiſe thy name for ever and ever.

On the Return of Peace.

O Lord God, who haſt now given unto us the bleſſing of peace, enable us to yield humble and hearty thanks to thee, for removing that dreadful ſcourge, with which we were, of late, deſervedly puniſhed. Suffer us not, O Lord, to provoke thee, by our ſins, to give us up again to the deſolations of war: but may we live to thee, who haſt been graciouſly

graciouſly pleaſed to put a ſtop to the effuſion of human blood.

And now, O Lord, that the earth is quiet, grant that thy *word may run and be glorified.* May the knowledge of thy truth prevail, and the force of thoſe divine principles contained in the goſpel be felt every where, that *wars may ceaſe in the world*; and that righteouſneſs, as well as peace, may flouriſh among all nations.

And be graciouſly pleaſed, O Lord, to enable us, like faithful followers of Jeſus, to reſiſt ſin, and ſatan, unto death; that we may be admitted into that kingdom of peace, into which all thy true ſervants ſhall hereafter enter.

On a favourable Change of Weather.

We bleſs thy holy name, moſt gracious Lord, for the preſent ſeaſonable change of weather. O that we may long remember thy goodneſs, and ſhew forth our thankfulneſs,

not

not in words only, but in obedience to thy holy will. And while we pray, that we may be always thankful for temporal mercies; we pray likewiſe, that we may not neglect the better bleſſings which thou haſt provided for us in Jeſus Chriſt. O kindle in our hearts an ardent deſire after them, that we may obtain them; and that *when fleſh and heart ſhall fail* (as ere long they will), we may rejoice in *God, as our portion for ever.*

For the Maſter of a Family when he is Abroad.

O Lord God, who art every where preſent, be pleaſed to bleſs thy ſervant, the maſter of this family, who is now from home. Preſerve him from wicked men, from dangerous diſeaſes, from ſinful temptations, and all other evils, bodily or ſpiritual, to which he may be expoſed. We humbly pray thee, O Lord, to conduct him, by thy gracious providence, to his houſe again in peace. And make both him and us thankful, for thy mercies towards each other. Hear, O merciful God, his prayers for us, and ours for him.

And

And may we ſo live together here, as to do honour to religion, by ſhewing how the fear and love of thy name regulates and ſweetens ſociety *.

* The ſame prayer by changing the word *him* for *her*, may be uſed when the miſtreſs of the family is from home.

PRAYERS,

PRAYERS,

To be uſed with Individuals under particular Circumſtances.

To be uſed with a Woman during the Time of Child-bearing.

MOST bleſſed Lord, "the helper of all "who flee to thee for ſuccour," look mercifully upon thy handmaid, and protect her from all things that may be hurtful to her in her preſent circumſtances. Be pleaſed to ſupport her under all the infirmities ſhe may feel. Grant, O Lord, that ſhe may be brought ſafely through the hour of difficulty. Give her grace, we beſeech thee, to commit herſelf to thee, and to *ſtay herſelf* upon thy power and mercy.

May the anxieties which ſhe feels concerning the iſſue of her preſent condition, lead her

her to attend ſeriouſly to the care of her ſoul, and to ſeek earneſtly for a well grounded hope of ſalvation; that ſhe may be prepared for all events, and may have the warrant of thy word to expect thy preſence, and thy help, in all ſituations. If it pleaſe thee, O Lord, may ſhe be the joyful mother of a living child. And may that child be one of the happy number of thoſe, who ſincerely ſerve thee in this world, and ſhall live with thee in the world to come, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

To be uſed with a Woman after being ſafely delivered in Child-birth.

O moſt merciful God, we would be thankful to thee for thy compaſſionate regard to thy handmaid, to whom thou haſt granted a ſafe delivery in the hour of child-birth. Fill her heart with thankfulneſs for what thou haſt done for her, and let her ſoul *magnify the Lord her Saviour*, for continuing her yet among the living. Enable her, O Lord, to depend on thee, for her perfect reſtoration to health and ſtrength. May the remembrance of thy late

mercy

mercy to her, lead her to give herſelf up anew to that gracious God, who helped her in the trying hour, and may ſhe earneſtly pray, that the life which he hath ſpared may be ſpent in following her Saviour more faithfully than ever.

Let theſe Words be added if the Child be living.

And if it pleaſe thee that the child which thou haſt given to her, ſhould live to be capable of receiving inſtruction, enable her, O Lord, to "train *him* up in the way, in "which *he* ſhould go." Like a chriſtian mother, may ſhe be careful to provide for the welfare of *his* ſoul, and make it her chief buſineſs to teach *him*, the *excellency of the knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus her Lord.* Bleſs her inſtructions to *him*; hear her prayers for *him*; enable her to hold forth a good example to *him*; and may both parent and child ſo walk together on earth, as to meet in heaven, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghoſt,

be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

To be uſed with a Sick Perſon.

O Lord God of our Salvation, how miſerable would our condition be, had we not thee to look to in a time of trouble. Forgive that folly, through which we are ſo unmindful of thee in the day of proſperity. We would give thanks to thee, for awakening our minds to the conſideration of God and religion; even though it be done by a ſevere ſtroke of affliction. We ought to account it a mercy to be brought to ſerioufneſs, and to prayer, whatever be the methods which thou mayeſt be pleaſed to take for this purpoſe.

O Lord, we find that although we can live regardleſs of thee in times of proſperity, we cannot ſupport adverſity without thy help: then we find how wretched a condition it is, not to have God for our friend. O ſanctify that diſcovery, that it may effectually cure us of

of our forgetfulneſs of God:—that it may cauſe us to return to thee with our whole heart;—and that we may never more forſake Thee, *the fountain of living waters.*

Look, O Lord, we humbly beſeech thee, upon *him* who lieth upon this bed of ſickneſs, and make this viſitation of thy providence beneficial to *him.* O may it be accompanied with ſuch mercy, ſuch grace to *his* ſoul, that *he* may have reaſon to all eternity to ſay, that it was *good for him to be afflicted.* May *he* in this confinement learn, and be duly affected with, thoſe great and bleſſed truths of thy word, which none of us regard with ſufficient attention in the hours of eaſe and health. O that *he* may ſavingly learn, that there is nothing ſo much to be deſired as an intereſt in thy favour;—that there is no hope for ſinful man, but in the mercy of God;—that ſin is the greateſt evil—holineſs the greateſt good—and that Chriſt is the only refuge for a guilty ſoul.

We humbly intreat thee, O heavenly Father, that if it be conſiſtent with thy will, *he* may be raiſed up again; and that he may

be yet continued among us, living a godly and comfortable life; happy in himſelf, and a bleſſing to thoſe with whom he is connected. May it pleaſe thee to moderate *his* ſufferings; do thou direct us to the beſt methods for *his* relief, and be mercifully pleaſed to give ſucceſs to them. May *he* patiently ſubmit to what *he* may have to bear; and under the ſharpeſt pains which *he* may endure, enable *him* to adore and bleſs thee, for not dealing with *him according to* the full deſert of *his ſins*.

But what we moſt of all requeſt is, that this affliction may be accompanied with the grace of thy Holy Spirit; that true repentance, a lively faith in Chriſt, and an ardent deſire after holineſs, may be wrought in *his* heart. Hear this prayer for him, O Lord, that *he* may be made fit either to live or to die: ſo that whatever be the iſſue of this ſickneſs, it may end in the glory of thy name, and be made to contribute to the good of *his* ſoul.

And, O Lord, teach us, who are in health, to profit by what we ſee others ſuffer. Let the ſight of an afflicted fellow-creature, fill us with thankfulneſs for the comforts we at preſent

preſent enjoy, and ſtir us up to provide againſt the hour of trial that may one day come upon ourſelves. O may we *ſeek thee while thou art to be found.* May we ſeriouſly attend to the voice of Chriſt; and like Mary, *chooſe that good part, which ſhall never be taken from us.*

Theſe mercies for our afflicted *brother* and for ourſelves, we humbly aſk in the name, and through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, be aſcribed endleſs praiſes. Amen.

[*If this Prayer be deemed too long for the Patient, the following ſhorter one, may be uſed in its ſtead.*

O thou, who doſt not *willingly afflict, nor grieve the children of men,* be pleaſed to look down with compaſſion upon this poor ſufferer, and ſanctify *his* preſent affliction to *him.* O be pleaſed to ſupport *him* under all that *he* may have to endure, and make the want of eaſe, of reſt, and other comforts of health,

ſo beneficial to *his* better part, the ſoul, that *he* may have reaſon hereafter to ſay, that *it was good for him to have been afflicted.*

We pray thee to give *him* grace to ſubmit to thy will, and may all *his* complaints be ſilenced by the remembrance of *his* ſins. O Lord, if it ſeem good unto thee, give ſucceſs to our endeavours for *his* recovery. And accompany thy bleſſing on the means of health, with that ſtill greater bleſſing, the grace of thy Holy Spirit; that in the days of returning ſtrength *he* may live the life of a *new creature.* O forgive *his* ſins; give *him* grace to repent of them; and may the ſincerity of *his* repentance be made manifeſt by *his denying all ungodlineſs and worldly luſts.*

We beg that, if it be conſiſtent with thy will, *his* life may be ſpared: but if this illneſs ſhould prove to be a *ſickneſs unto death*, O Lord, prepare *him* for the awful change which awaits *him.* Suffer *him* not, we moſt humbly beſeech thee, to be called hence, till *he* ſavingly *know thee, the only true God, and Jeſus Chriſt, whom thou didſt* in mercy ſend into the world, *to ſave ſinners.* Hear us, O

Lord,

Lord, for the ſake of thy dear Son, to whom with thyſelf, and Holy Spirit, be everlaſting praiſes aſcribed. Amen.

To be uſed with one, who appears to be at the Point of Death.

O moſt gracious God, ſince thy throne of grace is ſtill open to us, we humbly beg to be heard in behalf of our *brother*, who is now brought down to the gates of the grave. O Lord, we have done with praying for *his* life, all that we have to requeſt is, that thou wouldeſt ſuccour *him* in this trying hour, and fit *him* for the great change that is about to take place.

Forgive, O merciful Lord, all *his* tranſgreſſions, for the ſake of that bleſſed Saviour, who ſhed his blood for the *remiſſion of ſins*. May *his* laſt moments be ſpent in penitence and faith. O may *his* ſoul be with thee, whenever it ſhall ſeparate from the body; and may *he* be ſupported under what *he* now

ſuffers, by a well-grounded hope of being ſoon joined to the church in heaven.

Permit us, O *God of all comfort*, to requeſt that *his* paſſage out of time into eternity, may be eaſy. O let not *his* bodily pains be extreme, nor *his* mind be oppreſſed with doubts and fears. Take away, O Lord, *the bitterneſs of death*, by giving *him* a foretaſte of the glory of heaven. But above all we beg, that ſuffer whatever *he* may in this hour, either in body or mind, *his* precious ſoul may be ſaved. O grant us this requeſt, even ſhould it ſeem good unto thee, not to beſtow the other bleſſings which we have aſked for our poor departing *brother*.

And O have mercy on the living, as well as the dying; and teach us, by every inſtance of mortality, *ſo to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wiſdom*. All which we aſk in the name of Jeſus Chriſt, thy dear Son our Lord, *in whom may we be found* living and dying. Amen.

To be uſed with a Perſon, who is recovering from Sickneſs.

O Almighty God, who art able to bring down the ſtrongeſt, and to raiſe up the weakeſt, we bleſs thy holy name for the favourable appearances which have taken place in the condition of our *brother*. O perfect what thou haſt begun, and give *him*, and us, reaſon to praiſe thee as the God of Salvation. Teach *him* to lift up *his* heart to thee, and to pray, that life may not only be continued, but that it may be better employed than it has been heretofore. May this deſire be now moſt earneſtly felt; and O let it not grow faint when health and ſtrength return, but may it increaſe in *him* the longer he liveth.

Teach *him*, O Lord, to profit, with reſpect to the body, by what *he* has of late ſuffered; may *he* learn to guard againſt all things, which may endanger *his* health. And teach *him*, O God, to guard with ſtill greater care, againſt whatever may endanger the welfare of *his* ſoul. O may *he* now be enabled to live a life of watchfulneſs and prayer. Suffer

him

him not to truſt to the moſt ſolemn reſolutions which *he* may now ſeriouſly make, but to thy grace for *his* perſeverance in well doing: looking to thee with humble confidence for that help, which thou art ready to afford to all thoſe, who ſeek for it in the name of thy dear Son.

We humbly intreat thee, to be with *him* all through the remainder of life. Let *him* not forget that although *he* is now recovering from ſickneſs, the time will come when medicines will fail, and *he muſt go to the grave, the houſe appointed for all living*. O enable *him* henceforward to follow Chriſt in faith, purity, and humility, that when the time of *his* departure hence ſhall come, *he* may have reaſon to rejoice in it, as the hour of compleat deliverance from all ſin, and all ſuffering.

Hear us, O Lord, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, our Mediator and Advocate, to whom with the Father, and Holy Spirit, be glory and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

A FAMILY

A FAMILY LITURGY.

N. B. The words in the larger Roman character, are to be read by the maſter of the Family only, but all are to join audibly in the words which are printed in italics.

All ſtanding up, the Maſter of the Family ſhall begin as followeth:

GOD who made all things, and who preſerveth all things, hath brought us ſafe to the morning or evening of this day. We are aſſembled, to acknowledge, with thankfulneſs, the bleſſings which we have received; to aſk for the forgiveneſs of our ſins, through the mediation of Jeſus Chriſt; and humbly to pray for the continuation of God's goodneſs to us through the day or night enſuing.

Let us recollect that we are now approaching the ſearcher of all hearts; and may the con-

conſideration of his awful majeſty, and fatherly goodneſs, cauſe us to addreſs him with reverence, humility, and thankfulneſs.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy ſpirit.

Praiſe ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praiſed.

Here let a PSALM or HYMN be ſung.

After which, all being ſeated, the maſter ſhall diſtinctly read

A PORTION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.

After the portion of Holy Scripture is read, let all kneel down, while the maſter offers up this ſhort prayer.

GRANT, we beſeech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard, may through thy grace be ſo grafted in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of holy living, to the honour and praiſe of thy name, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord ſhew thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy ſalvation.

O Lord

O Lord ſave the king;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy miniſters with righteouſneſs;
And make thy choſen people joyful.

O God, make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then followeth THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER for the day.

After which let all join in the Lord's Prayer.

OUR Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and the love of God, and the fellowſhip of the Holy Ghoſt, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Let all continue on their knees, for a few minutes, that each one may ſilently lift up his heart to God, and beg the Divine bleſſing.

NOTE.

IT would be quite foreign to the deſign of this publication to enter upon a defence of liturgical worſhip. But to the members of the Church of England, whoſe public worſhip is liturgical, I cannot but recommend the adoption of that mode of worſhip in their families; inaſmuch as it would habituate their domeſtics to ſuch attentions to the minuter parts of our church ſervice, as would contribute greatly to the ſolemnity of the whole. The ſpirit of our worſhip is in a great meaſure loſt, for want of the audible concurrence of the congregation, in the reſponſes. There is no doubt but that there is more attention paid to thoſe parts of the ſervice than there appears; many, and thoſe ſome of the moſt devout worſhippers, joining in them ſilently: but not being audibly rehearſed, they ſeem to be left entirely to the clerk. The conſequence of this is, that our worſhip ſinks into a heavy and ſpiritleſs performance, and a general liſtleſſneſs

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leſſneſs is obſerved to prevail in the aſſembly, long before the ſervice is ended.

We are informed, that in the churches of the early Chriſtians, there was ſo univerſal and ſo audible a concurrence of the worſhippers, in the reſponſes, that the uttering them reſembled the ſound of thunder. It is much to be wiſhed, that ſuch a lively attention to the ſervice were obſervable in our churches. We ſhould then appear much more like an aſſembly of people adoring the great and glorious Creator, than we do. To this grand, majeſtic, and impreſſive effect, every perſon ſhould be excited to contribute his part.

One thing, perhaps, which is a cauſe of our inattention to the ſhorter ſentences of the public liturgy, is the people being ſo entirely unuſed to any thing of the kind, in the intervals which occur between the Sundays. If this be a cauſe of inattention, the uſe of a Family Liturgy may be of ſervice; as thereby our domeſtics may be trained by the worſhip which is practiſed at home, to join in the ſervice of the church. But in order to its anſwering this end, the maſter of the family

ſhould

ſhould be obſervant of a rule ſuggeſted to him in the diſcourſe on Family Religion; namely, to teach his domeſtics to join in thoſe parts of worſhip which are allotted to them.

Beſides the good effect which a family liturgy may have on the public worſhip, it ſeems, independent of that effect, to be an eligible mode of family worſhip. Giving our domeſtics a part to ſuſtain in the worſhip, may ſerve to give life to a ſervice, which is apt to be accounted, by young people, a dull employment. It may help to fix their attention, and to impreſs them with this important conſideration, namely, that Religion is a buſineſs in which every individual ought to be engaged.

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†‡† The Reader is requeſted to obſerve, that where more than one prayer is referred to, the firſt will be found more appropriate to the occaſion than the following: and that a ſlight alteration will be ſufficient to convert a Morning into an Evening Prayer, or an Evening into a Morning Prayer. It is perhaps not neceſſary to remark, that by a ſmall alteration, ſuch as changing the word *we* for *I*, or *us* for *me*, theſe Prayers may be uſed in the cloſet.

FINIS.

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